

October  
2017

FREE

# BLUE RIDGE CHRISTIAN NEWS

## Hurricanes, Earthquakes, Fires *People Helping People*

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E



Matthew 25:34-40 34Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: 35For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: 36Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. 37Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, LORD, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? 38When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? 39Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? 40And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.



Getting sick isn't  
convenient. We are.

MISSION  
MY CARE NOW  
BLUE RIDGE

SATURDAY, 2:47 PM

THURSDAY, 7:44 AM

WEDNESDAY, 6:15 PM





SATURDAY, 2:47 PM



THURSDAY, 7:44 AM



WEDNESDAY, 6:15 PM



MONDAY, 7:02 AM

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*Welcoming patients three months of age and older*





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*"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace: that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation: that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!"*

Isaiah 52:7 KJV



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# Church Directory

## Altapass Baptist Church

3631 Altapass Hwy  
Spruce Pine, NC  
828-765-0660  
altapassbaptistchurch@ccvn.com  
www.altapassbaptistchurch.org

**Dr. Marcus R. Benfield**

Sunday School - 10:00am  
Worship - 11:00am  
Sunday Evening - 7:00pm  
Sunday Youth Program - 7:00pm  
1st & 3rd Sunday  
(Conductors for Christ ages 5-11)  
2nd & 4th Sunday  
(Teen Discovery ages 12-18)  
Wednesday - 7:00pm

"A Christ-Centered,  
Bible Believing Church"

## Spruce Pine United Methodist Church

11090 Hwy. 226 South  
Spruce Pine, NC 28777  
www.sprucepineumc.org  
spumc3@bellsouth.net  
828-765-7446

**Pastor Rev. Jeremy Troxler**

Sunday School - 10:00am  
Sunday Worship - 11:00am  
Choir Wednesday - 7:00pm

The mission of Spruce Pine United Methodist Church is to be a beacon on a hill spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ through: Worship, Fellowship, Education, and Nurturing Service

## Pine Branch Baptist Church

48 Church Road  
Spruce Pine, NC 28777  
Phone: (828) 765-9101  
www.pinebranchbaptist.net

**Reverend Bobby Joe Greene**

Sunday School • 9:45-10:40am  
Worship Service • 10:45am  
Sunday Evening • 6:30pm

A Bible-believing Fellowship  
Loving God and Loving People

## The Bridge Church of WNC

207 Pinebridge Avenue  
Spruce Pine, NC 28777  
TBCWNC.org

**Pastors - Tom & Tammy Anglin**

Sunday Service 10:30AM  
Wednesday Service 7:00PM  
Church Office M-F  
9:00AM-3:00PM

Our passion is to help connect the Body of Christ in this area in order to see the Fire of God transform our community, state, nation and world! (See John 17:21)

## Berry Chapel Baptist Church

280 Chapel St.  
Spruce Pine, NC 28777  
828-765-6590  
www.berrychapelbaptist.com

**Pastor - Steve Williams**

Sunday School 9:45 AM  
Worship Service 11:00 AM  
Sunday Evening Care Meal/  
Ministry - 5:30 PM  
Wednesday Evening  
Service 7:00 PM

Where Everybody is Somebody  
And Jesus Christ is Lord!

## Pleasant Grove Church of the Brethren

1717 Harrell Hill Road  
Bakersville, NC  
(828)-458-1947

**Pastor: John Smith**

Sunday School - 10:00 am  
Worship - 11:00 am

We are a small, Christ-centered family of believers and would love to share God's Word and love with you and yours!

## Morganton Seventh-day Adventist Church

2187 Jamestown Road  
Morganton, NC  
828-684-8212

**Pastor Rick Mercer**

Sabbath (Saturday)  
Bible Study - 9:30 am  
Sabbath Worship - 11:00 am  
Vegetarian Buffet after church  
Wednesday  
Praise, Prayer & Proclaim -  
7:00 pm  
www.morgantonsda.org

## First Advent Christian Church

211 Lenoir Road  
Morganton, NC 28655  
828-437-8206  
www.fccmorganton.org

**Pastor Patrick Bradshaw  
Associate Pastor Javier  
Guzman**

pbradshawfccmorganton@gmail.com

Sunday School 10:00 AM  
Sunday Worship 11:00 AM  
Wed: Youth Meal 5:30PM -  
Meeting 6:30PM  
Adult Bible Study/Prayer 6:30PM  
Choir Practice 7:15PM  
Sat. Band Practice 4:30PM

Preaching Christ Crucified, Risen  
and Coming Again!

## Banner Elk United Methodist Church

486 College Dr.  
Banner Elk, NC  
(828) 963-6640

**Reverend Dan Brubaker**

Sunday School - 10:00 am  
Contemporary Service - 9:40 am  
Traditional Worship Service - 11:00 am  
AA Open Step Meeting - Mon. 7 pm  
AA Closed Big Book Meeting - Wed. 7pm  
UMW & UMM Meeting - 2nd Sat. 10:00 am  
English Classes - Tues. & Thurs. 6 - 9 pm

## Bakersville United Methodist Church

119 S. Mitchell Avenue  
Bakersville, NC 28705  
828-765-9015

**Pastors -  
Dr. Louis H. Woodard, &  
Rev. Gene Lanier**

Sunday School 11:00 AM  
Morning Worship 10:00 AM

"Come grow with us"

## Horizon Church

500 East Fleming Drive  
Morganton, NC  
828-437-1212

**Pastors: Senior Pastor  
Timothy Fortune &  
Associate Pastor Mike Stroud**

Sunday Worship 10:30 AM  
Wednesday 6:30PM

www.myhorizonchurch.org  
Transforming Lives Through  
The Power of Jesus Christ!

## Grassy Creek Baptist Church

793 Old NC 226 Hwy  
Spruce Pine, NC  
828-765-4620  
www.grassycreekbc.org

Sunday School 10:00am  
Morning Worship 11:00am  
Sunday evening 6:30pm  
Wednesday:  
J.A.M. (Jesus and Me) 7:00pm  
Seekers (young adults) 7:00pm  
Mid-week worship 7:00pm  
"That Mitchell County  
may know Christ"

## West Burnsville Baptist Church SB

222 West Burnsville Church Rd.  
Burnsville, NC 28714  
(828)-682-3990

Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.  
Morning Service: 10:50 a.m.  
Evening Service: 6:00 p.m.  
Wednesday Service 6:30 p.m.

Church vision: To become passionate  
followers and servants of Jesus Christ  
while ministering to the spiritual and  
physical needs of our church and community.

## Burkemont Baptist Church

4668 Burkemont Rd.  
Morganton, NC 28655  
828-437-2357

For more information,  
please visit  
www.burkemontbaptist.org

**Dr. David Mills, Sr. Pastor**

8:30am - Early Worship  
9:45am - Sunday School  
11:00am - Worship  
6:00pm - Evening Worship

## Plumtree Presbyterian Church

4527 Hwy 19E  
Plumtree, NC 28664  
828-765-6919  
www.plumtreechurch.com

**Pastor Ryan Bridgeo**  
pastor@plumtreechurch.com

Sunday School 9:45 am  
Worship Service 11:00 am  
Life Groups Tuesday-Thursday evenings, 7:00 pm  
Fusion Youth Wednesday's, 6:30 pm  
Healing Services 2nd Sunday of each month, 6:30 pm

John 15:16 You did not choose me, but I chose you  
and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that  
will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you  
ask in my name.

## Bear Creek Baptist Church

327 Bear Creek Road  
Bakersville, NC 28705  
www.bearcreekbaptist.com

**Reverend Bruce Cannon**

Sunday School 9:45 AM  
Worship Service 10:45 AM  
Discipleship 6:00 PM  
Evening Worship 6:45 PM  
Wednesday Worship 7:30 PM

"For God so loved the world, he  
gave his only Son..."

## St. Lucien's Catholic Church

695 Summit Street  
Spruce Pine, NC 28777  
Phone (828) 765-2224

Sunday Mass 9:00 am  
Wednesday Faith Formation  
6:00 pm  
Food Pantry Wed. 1:00-  
4:00pm

## First Baptist Church of Spruce Pine

125 Tappan Street  
Spruce Pine, NC 28777  
828-765-9411  
www.sprucepinefbc.com  
www.spfbc.blogspot.com

**Dr. Rocky Branch  
Senior Pastor**

Sunday School - 9:45 am  
Sunday Worship - 8:30 and 11:00 am  
Sunday Evening - 6:00 pm  
Wednesday Evening - 6:30 pm

Knowing God, Seeing God, Serving  
God, Submitting to God!

## Great Hope Seventh-day Adventist Church

2907d US Hwy 70 E  
Morganton, NC  
828-475-2040

**Pastor Barry MaHorney**

Sabbath (Saturday)  
Bible Study-10:00am  
Sabbath Worship - 11:30am  
Vegetarian Buffet after church  
Wednesday - Praise, Prayer &  
Proclaim - 7:00pm  
www.greatopesda.com

## Faith Fellowship Church

Champ Ray Rd.  
Micaville, NC 28755  
(828)-675-8284  
www.ffcn.org  
www.fccradio.org

**Pastor: David Gillespie**

Sunday School - 10:00 am  
Worship Service - 10:45 am  
Wednesday Bible Study - 7:00pm  
"The steps of a good man are  
ordered by the Lord:  
And he delighteth in his way."  
Psalm 37:23

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I Am A Christian Have I Been Baptized In The Spirit?

By Pastor Dean Honeycutt  
Mitchell County

When I was a child I was playing in the ocean and a big wave came and knocked me down covering me with water and rolling me over and over, I thought I was going to drown. But the water went away. The water immersed me, it baptized me.

First let's consider water baptism. Water baptism does not save you and is not a prerequisite to enter heaven. Water baptism is a public testimony of a new life in Christ, symbolizing His death burial and resurrection. The word baptism in trusted Theological dictionaries of the Greek New Testament means to dip, baptize, immerse, sink, drown, bathe, and wash. Therefore, we can conclude literally speaking, Christian baptism is the immersion of the believer in water, i.e. the complete covering of the body in water. In John 1:26 it is said by John the Baptist "I baptize with water". What did John do? He immersed, dipped, or sunk people into the Jordan River. Concerning the baptism of Jesus in Mark 1: 10 "And straightway coming up out of the water" would mean when Jesus' body was under water and then came up out of the water.

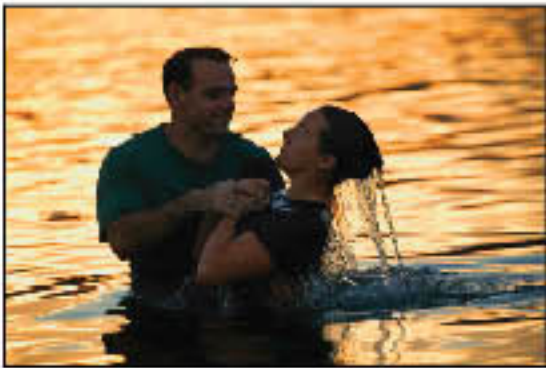
This doctrine is very important to our understanding of baptism in water and baptism in the Spirit. In Romans chapter 6 the Bible teaches us that water baptism is a picture of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Consider verse 4, "therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into death," and verse 6 "knowing this that our old man is crucified with Him." How are we buried? Do we throw dirt on us? No, we are buried under the water in baptism. When we go underwater in water baptism it is a picture of the death of the old man, we publicly identify with the death of Jesus on the cross for our sin. When we come up out of the water it symbolizes the resurrection of the new man. Consider verse 4 "that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we should walk in newness of life" and verse 5 "for if we have been planted together in the likeness of His death, we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection." What a beautiful way to picture our new life in Christ. Water baptism is a Christians first step of obedience and accountability to a New Testament church.

If water baptism is the immersion of the believer in water that publicly identifies him with Christ and a New Testament Church, what is Spiritual baptism?

Spiritual baptism is the total immersion of the believer at the moment of salvation in God the Holy Spirit. Consider John 1:33, John the Baptist speaking about Jesus, "and I knew Him not: but He that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, the same is He which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost." And when does this happen to the believer? John 7: 38 -39 tells us plainly, Jesus speaking; "he that believes on me as the scriptures has said out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water" and John the Apostle tells us "this spake Jesus of the Spirit which they that believe on Him should receive." In the book of Acts we see people believing and at the same moment receiving the Holy Ghost. In Acts 10: 47 Peter says, "can any forbid water, that these (Gentile believers) should not be baptized (water baptism) which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we." Therefore, at the moment of salvation we are baptized in the Holy Ghost.

When you go to purchase a new car the sticker on the window tells you what is available on that particular model of car. When you purchase a car with every available option you call that "loaded", in other words that car has everything and nothing is held back. When we receive the Holy Spirit at the moment of Salvation we are "loaded" with the Holy Spirit. We receive everything the Spirit should offer and nothing is held back. Ephesians 1: 3 teaches us "the Father has blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ." Ephesians 1:13 tells us, "in whom you also trusted, after that you believed you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of Promise." Paul teaches us in 1 Corinthians 12:13, "for by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, and have been all made to drink into one Spirit."

In conclusion, the command to every Christian is to "be filled with the Spirit" Ephesians 5:18. The Apostle John in the words of Jesus teaches us that the Holy Spirit lives in the believer and remains with us forever. (John 14: 16-17) To be filled with the Spirit is different from the one-time event of being baptized in the Spirit. Every Christian should strive to be filled with God's Spirit every day to walk in obedience to the Spirit "speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord" (Ephesians 5: 18-19) and demonstrate the fruit of the Spirit. (Galatians 5: 22-25) I hope this article has helped you understand that all true saved believers have been baptized in the Spirit and we are commanded to be filled with that self-same Spirit of God. May the word of God encourage you and "Live life with No Regrets".



Pastor Dean Honeycutt shepherds Snow Hill Baptist Church in Bakersville, NC. He may be reached at 828-385-0213, snowhillbaptist@gmail.com , or visit their website at www.snowhillbaptist.com.

And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. Mark 11:25

Fallen Leaves

By Jacob Willis  
Yancey County

Ecclesiastes 3 says, "To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: 2 A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted; 3 A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; 4 A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; 5 A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; 6 A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; 7 A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; 8 A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace." Fall is here and for many people changes of the season is a reminder of life, death, and change.

Fall is a time of beauty in this area that is unmatched in any other season. The leaves change and hot weather gives way to brisk mornings and cool nights. The light of autumn's evening and morning pierce through the clouds and fog like a million fireflies flickering all at once. Fall represents the time of life when we are wise and still active. It is where strength meets wit in a wonderful melody played for those fortunate enough to live this long and learn from it. Fall is the time when we empty nest and watch our children's children play. It is when great opportunity happens for those who have prepared all their lives for it. Fall is beautiful.

Fall also reminds us in not so subtle ways that winter is coming. Many elderly people suffer from depression as fall approaches. They know when the leaves begin to fall, the days shorten and the flowers fade that things will die. In a spiritual sense maybe they realize their own mortality is approaching. Maybe they look back to fall in their lives with longing. Hoping for the beautiful days of middle age again.

Fall also reminds us of swift transition. For everything there is a season. We may look around and see changes all around us. Fall is the greatest reminder that we all will in beauty fade to winter. We will all as the gospel song says, "Become fallen leaves that lie scattered on the ground." Some people are at their best in fall. They accept themselves warts and all. They use their wisdom to help others, they forgive and receive forgiveness. Fall is about living and preparing to die. It is about the metamorphosis that happens when we as Paul says in 2 Corinthian's 5: "For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven not made with hands."

Fall reminds us not only of winter, but also of regeneration. That not too long from now we will be new. We will be in a place where roses don't fade, we will never grow old, and we will be a new creation. We have hope that even in the winter of our lives we will be held, loved, and transformed. We can go ahead and enjoy fall.



Jacob Willis is an ordained pastor and Bereavement Coordinator for Yancey County Hospice. You may contact him at jacobw@hospiceofyancey.org.



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- Licensed Practical Nurse
- Certified Nursing Assistant
- Resident Assistant :

If you have a servants heart and desire to work in long term care we can provide financial assistance to committed individuals to complete the CNA certification course. Tuition reimbursement options are also available for those who desire to further their nursing career. Interested Applicants please contact Shelley Tinsley or Sue Parker @ (828)765-7312



## The Inspiring Word

### Reformation

Pastor Terry Cheek Th.D.  
McDowell County



Thanks for joining me for another publication of "The Blue Ridge Christian News" and my article "The Inspiring Word".

With October upon us, we obviously have our hearts turned toward fall and the coming holidays. My heart warms to think of them, time with family and friends, the special fellowship and atmosphere found only in the body of Christ! This year October brings something very special. This October we recognize the 500th anniversary of the beginning of the Reformation. On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses to the church door. His stand of biblical authority began a work that continues today! The Reformation has never ended. The body of Christ continues to stand on God's word as absolute authority for all people and in all things.

Too often the Reformation is portrayed as a theological division among Christians and, as such very few study it and discover how deeply their Christian walk is influenced because of it. I'm not going to spend a lot of my article on it but I do want to encourage you to embrace this time in history and in doing so take time to read and learn about an event that continues to shape your faith 500 years after it began.

Many around the southeast and Midwest continue to recover from Hurricane Harvey and Irma. The road to recovery is going to be long and difficult, sadly there are some who will never fully recover. I say this as someone who has lost everything to a disaster, having no insurance, with a family and an infant child I was under the weight of hopelessness and despair. God came through for me and I know He will come through for those dealing with the recent disasters. Given my experiences, I write to you this month with a heart of missions. Will you ask God to show you what He would have you do in His name for these folks? You may think it is insignificant but really it isn't. When we personally get involved in missions we collectively make a strong impact. By getting involved through your local church you join others around the world who share the love of God through material gifts that meet the daily needs of food, shelter, bathing, washing clothes, along with biblical and spiritual counseling, just to name a few. You can be a significant part of the outreach. I'm sure many of you have already joined the effort. If you haven't, make a prayerful commitment today. There are many organizations and possibly your church is capable of directly reaching out with a heart of missions. The opportunities are many. Let's not forget we are reaching out with and through the gospel. Remember the Lord's words from Luke 10:2 "...The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest." We all have an opportunity to be a laborer in the Lord's work.

The English word laborer is translated from a Greek word that means workman. In other words, this is a person who does whatever is necessary to be the means which justify the end. God has called His church to be laborers in Christ work. What is that exactly? Well, it begins with the spreading of the gospel. This only happens when we love people. I'm not talking about behaviors, I'm talking about seeing others as God sees them. His creation in His image with a soul that Jesus has died for. The body of Christ has the privilege of knowing what that means, we know through experience. We gained the experience because a messenger was sent with the gospel and the Holy Spirit convicted us to seek forgiveness and repentance of sin through the blood of Jesus Christ! Be that messenger and while you're delivering the message take along some food, a blanket, a stuffed animal, the word of God and a warm hug for someone wondering-- What will I do? God has it all figured out and part of His answer is you and me. I will close with Jesus answer to the Pharisee; Mark 12:28-31 "And one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, and perceiving that he had answered them well, asked him, Which is the first commandment of all? (29) And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: (30) And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. (31) And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these."

Our time has come and gone, until next time may God keep you firmly in His grip!

Terry Cheek is Pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Marion.

### Backyard Creations

Virginia Beam  
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# Mine Creek Baptist Church

## Support your Pastor!

By Preacher Chris Rathbone  
Mitchell County

October is Pastor Appreciation Month. This is an article which has been printed before, but I felt compelled to share again. Read with an open heart and show your pastor and his family how much you appreciate them for all they do for your church family.

### Support your Pastor!

Several years ago, I approached my former pastor and issued an apology. This man was my pastor when I received Christ as Savior and baptized me. He faithfully preached the Bible, pastored the church, attended night classes at Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute, worked on a job during the day, and continued to be a faithful husband and Dad. The reason for the apology I gave was the fact that after being in the ministry for a few years, I realized that I could have been a much better church member! In all that this pastor did, balancing his church, family, and career, I still found things to whine and complain about. Personally, I failed to realize how much was on him. Instead of looking for things to whine and complain about, I should have been praying, helping, and supporting him more. In other words, when God called me to pastor and preach I began to understand through experience what a pastor faces every day in the ministry. Unless you are a pastor, you cannot understand the day to day challenges one faces.

The most important thing to do for your pastor is to pray for him. A faithful pastor who has been called of God comes under constant assaults from the Devil. Being the one who is responsible for breaking the Bread of Life to the disciples of Christ brings him in the crosshairs of the evil one. Any pastor who states the ministry has no battles may not be doing what he needs to be doing. There is a constant every day spiritual battle that faithful pastors go through to minister to the congregations and communities in which God has placed them. When a man answers the call to preach the Gospel he instantly steps onto the spiritual battlefield. To carry such an important responsibility places him as a target for the forces of Satan. This constant spiritual battle can take its toll on the man of God. What I'm saying is your pastor needs your help!!! Pray for him every single day and if possible several times a day! As he is praying himself he needs to feel the prayers and support of those he is trying to minister to. Pray for God's strength to sustain him. Pray for God's wisdom to guide him. Pray that the Holy Spirit will anoint him as he studies and preaches the Scriptures. Pray for protection from the onslaughts of the Devil. Your pastor, if he is doing what he should be doing, is constantly praying and thinking of the messages from the Bible that will help the people to whom he will be preaching. He needs the prayers of God's people to help him as he prepares. If you believe his preaching needs to be deeper and improve start praying and stop complaining. It will help much more to pray for him than to complain to him!

Next, be understanding. Don't just assume that your pastor only works on Sundays and Wednesdays. A pastor is never off duty. Even when he is at home with his family, he is on call. A pastor can expect phone calls at any time. There is no time card which he will punch to say the work day is over. For the most part, many people will go to work and leave that job at a certain time. This is not so for the faithful pastor. At all times and in all places, he will be called upon to fulfill his calling as a pastor. He can be called away from his family during supper or in the middle of the night. In the grocery store, at the ballgame, walking down the street, eating in the restaurant, wherever he is at, he is still on duty as a pastor. The responsibility he has is not a career but a calling of God. Whenever he is called upon, wherever he is at, he cannot say, "I'm not on duty", but must faithfully answer the call when it comes. Don't expect a pastor to have to be there for every little thing. If you genuinely need him, let him know, but don't expect him to have to come every time you stomp your toe! Understand that he sometimes will have to place priority on certain things and cannot be in more than one place at a time. He must take time to study God's word and bring a message, for that is his most important responsibility as a Pastor. Be understanding that he is a husband and father and must have time and opportunity, just like you, to fulfill those responsibilities also. He must first pastor his family before he can be a pastor to you. My wife knows me as Chris first, not Preacher Chris. My boys know me simply as "Daddy". If your pastor also works on a public job, think of how much more pressure is placed on him to try and balance his responsibilities to his family and



church. Be understanding and allow him to be a family man. He will be a better pastor to your family if he has time to be with his family.

Be a blessing and not a burden. Be an encourager and not a discourager. Often, the only time some church members speak to their pastor or want a visit, is to bring a complaint to him about something that will make no difference in eternity. Now its one thing if he is denying the resurrection of Christ, but it is another thing if he didn't have time to visit your second cousin twice removed who you should have already visited! Let your pastor know you love and support him. Let him know you are praying for him. Be faithful to worship services and serve in, not just sit in, your church. It is very encouraging to a pastor to see people who are hungry for God's word and choose to be there to be fed spiritually. Your pastor will be a better pastor and your church will be a better church to the glory of God if you work to help and not hinder. Always strive to be one who is willing to help carry the burden with your pastor so the entire body of Christ will prosper in the work of God's Kingdom. I challenge you, after reading this article, to go to your pastor and ask him what you can do to help. After he wakes up from passing out (Ha! Ha!), help him as your church worships and serves the Lord.

Get together with the leaders of your church and do something to show your appreciation for all that your pastor and his family does to serve you and your church family.

Hebrew 13:7 *Remember them which have the rule over you, (your spiritual leaders) who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, (imitate their faith) considering the end of their conversation (way of life). Parenthesis mine.*

Preacher Chris Rathbone serves as Pastor at Mine Creek Baptist Church.

*Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly [is] great, but the labourers [are] few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest. Luke 10:2*



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Avery Mitchell Correctional Institution  
"Do You See What I See?"

By Jody Griffin  
Avery County

*Whither shall I go from thy spirit? Or whither shall I flee from thy presence? (Psalm 139:7)*

It's not a fair question, I know. Because each person sees through a unique set of lenses, the value of the Life we are given to share. Please allow me the privilege to explain...

Many believe that within the walls of the correctional facility there is nothing but spiritual darkness. While I must admit that there is some measure of truth in that, I am so blessed to offer you a glimpse into a place where the Light of the Love of God often shines brightest!

At a recent training event for correctional chaplains from around the state, I was struck by the spirit of my brothers and sisters who share this gift of ministry together. Of the thirty some gathered, for three days of training and sharing, I did not hear a single complaint about the work we all do. Not. One.

Without fail, every person expressed humility and awe that God would allow them to be present in a place many would never choose to go, amongst those, many would rather avoid or ignore. There was a common sense of JOY in serving God by serving those who are incarcerated. Really!

The truth is, there is a vibrant spirit of faith within every facility because there are those who dwell and those who serve within who realize that they are not alone! The spirit of God is present and is at work in so many ways! Here are just a few examples!



God is actively: Preserving, preparing, presenting perfect love to many! Soothing, solidifying, stirring, souls for service both within and without the prison gates! Breaking, bending, building lives once broken into bold statements of God's abilities!

I have personally seen these works taking place. I have witnessed the baptisms of those who have committed themselves to God in Christ!

And participated in a Blessing Service, where men are given the affirmation they deserve as sons of the Living God, wherein the focus is on their future, NOT on their past!

And counseled several men whose families have experienced severe illness, tragedy, and death. Can you imagine being incarcerated

knowing that your loved ones have faced hurricanes, earthquakes, community violence and more?

Let me testify to you that in the face of those uncertainties and more, the Spirit of God is at work amongst those who live within these walls!

Thank you so very much for your continued prayers and for your faithful support of this ministry! We couldn't do it without you!

Jody Griffin is pastor of Central Baptist Church in Spruce Pine and Community Funded Chaplain at Avery-Mitchell Correctional Institution.

*And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you. Ephesians 4:32*



Drugs Drugs Drugs

By Barbara Harrell

There are many perspectives on the drug issues that we face in society today. After a conversation with our district attorney I decided to shine the light on 2 of these.

The first is Drug Courts. For over two decades, Drug Courts have led the charge towards a more humane, cost effective justice system. Research demonstrates that Drug Courts provide a highly effective alternative to incarceration for individuals whose involvement in the criminal justice system is rooted in serious addiction to drugs and alcohol.

A Good Definition is: A special court with jurisdiction over cases involving drug-using offenders. Drug courts are treatment based alternatives to prisons, youth-detention facilities, jails, and probation. These courts make extensive use of comprehensive supervision, drug testing, treatment services, immediate sanctions, and incentives.



Drug courts concentrate the efforts of judges, prosecutors, defense counsel, substance-abuse treatment specialists, probation officers, law enforcement and correctional personnel, educational and vocational experts, community leaders, and others on individuals who

are charged with illicit drug abuse. The criminal justice system works cooperatively with treatment systems and others to provide an offender with the necessary tools to get into recovery, stay in recovery, and lead a productive, crime-free life.

The drug court acts to help the offender change his or her life in order to stop criminal activity, rather than focusing only on punishment of the offender. Drug courts also help to provide consistent responses to drug offenses among the judiciary, and they can foster coordination between intervention agencies and resources, thus increasing the cost-effectiveness of drug-intervention programs. Successful completion of the drug court's treatment or intervention regimen usually results in the dismissal of drug charges, shortened or suspended sentences, or a combination of these. Participants acquire the wherewithal to rebuild their lives. At first, drug courts were geared toward adult populations. The successes of adult drug courts in intervention and in changing the lives of adult offenders prompted juvenile courts to establish similar drug court programs aimed at juvenile offenders. Juvenile drug courts likewise have proven successful, and now many jurisdictions include family drug courts that primarily hear substance-abuse and neglect cases.

Differing needs across jurisdictions have resulted in a variety of drug courts in terms of their structure, scope, and target populations, but they all share three primary goals: reduction of recidivism, reduction of substance abuse among participants, and rehabilitation of participants.

- To achieve these goals, drug courts generally structure them
- Incorporation of drug testing into case processing.
  - Creation of a non-adversarial relationship between the offender and the court.
  - Identification of offenders who are in need of treatment and referring them to treatment as soon as possible after arrest.
  - Access to a continuum of treatment and rehabilitation services.
  - Monitoring of abstinence through frequent, mandatory drug testing.
  - Establishment of a coordinated strategy to govern drug court responses to offenders' compliance.
  - Maintenance of judicial interaction with each drug court participant.
  - Monitoring and evaluation of program goals and effectiveness.
  - Continuing education to promote effective drug court planning, implementation, and operations.
  - Forging of partnerships among drug courts, public agencies, and community-based organizations in order to generate local support and to enhance drug court effectiveness.

Drug courts can be used for a variety of case types and are adaptable enough to fit the needs and acceptability of any given community. Jurisdictions tailor their drug courts to meet the specific needs of their communities. Most drug courts are pre-plea courts, but some drug courts are post-plea, and others are used as a method of alternative sentencing. In a pre-plea program, charges are deferred while the defendant is actively participating in the drug court program. At that point in the process, he or she has not pled guilty to any charges. This program is designed principally for non-violent, first-time, low-risk offenders. Drug courts can be used for a variety of case types and are adaptable enough to fit the needs and acceptability of any given community. Jurisdictions tailor their drug courts to meet the specific needs of their communities.

The next question would be do they work? Most of the data I have accessed has had improvement in recidivism as well as lower costs overall if taking into account future cost if they relapse. There are a lot of factors that can influence the outcome of the success rate; even the interaction with a particular judge or personnel turnover.

*continued on page 14*



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But for the Grace of God  
By Doug Harrell

Luke 6:37 *Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven:*

As I have grown older, and hopefully a bit wiser, I tend to look at people and situations with more compassion, and maybe understanding, than I did when I was younger. In my younger years, I tended to be very judgmental toward people and the things they did, and I am still guilty of this in some instances, if I am honest with myself. That being said, when I look back on my growing up years, I realize how blessed I was and am to have had the people and parents I had in those years. Recently, I have had opportunity to deal with people, both young and older, that had different situations growing up and have had harder challenges in life in many ways than I have. I don't know how I would have turned out in those same circumstances, and maybe I am learning to view them differently, but for the Grace of God go I! If my parents had not taken me to church, taught me to work, taught me to be honest and truthful, set a moral example for me, how would I have turned out? Only God has the answer to that question.

When I am in situations today that I am dealing with people that have an addiction of some kind, or have had one, maybe I can see more clearly now. As Jesus said, I came not to save the just but to save the unjust. Romans 14:13 *Let us not therefore judge one another any more; but judge this rather, that no man put a stumbling block or an occasion to fall in his brother's way.* Maybe we help more if we have compassion and love, not enabling, but directing, with the guidance that we strive to provide. It is critical that we be loving and understanding, but also firm in our convictions. Accepting things as right, that are wrong, will never help anyone mature in this life and have happiness. But guidance with love and compassion can make a difference in many lives. My prayer is that I can truly love and accept the individual, even if I despise the sin in their lives, and yes, a sin is a sin, and we never help anyone without an understanding of God's teaching truths. True happiness can only be found in living a life as God ordains, not one



without moral limits. Matthew 9:13 *But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.*

As we read the scriptures, it is very evident that Jesus was not afraid to approach the unapproachable, but that he as a guiding light for meaningful change in their lives. My prayer for each of us is that we be that beacon of light for those around us that are struggling each day with the challenges that life have thrown them. Will you love others and pray for guidance in your own life, and the life of others around you today?

Doug Harrell is a life-long resident of Mitchell County, Owner of Harrell Hill Farms, Inc, a member of Bear Creek Baptist Church and Publisher of the Blue Ridge Christian News.



And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, *Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe.* Revelation 14:15



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“Peace Be With You”

By Shawn Thomas  
Burke County

“Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, ‘Peace be with you.’” (John 20:19)  
“So, Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you.’” (John 20:21)  
“Jesus came, the doors having been shut, and stood in their midst and said, ‘Peace be with you.’” (John 20:26)

It is striking that when the Lord Jesus first appeared to His disciples after His resurrection from the dead, He repeatedly shared this same message: “Peace be with you.” If He’d said it once, it would have been important; as He repeats it THREE TIMES it should really have our attention!

What is the message of the risen Jesus to His people? “Peace be with you.” This was a word that those first disciples sorely needed: they were hiding in fear, living in doubts and uncertainties after the events surrounding His death. But in the midst of all that He appeared, and His message was that there was peace for them; because He was alive!



This is actually what Jesus came to give each of us. “Peace”, “shalom”, connotes not only the absence of conflict in a life, but also a “wholeness” that comes from a right relationship with God. We broke that “peace” with God through our sin, but Jesus came to die on the cross, not merely to “forgive our sins”, but also to restore us back to that “wholeness,” that “peace” in our relationship with God. Thus, this three-fold message of Christ was not only for those original disciples in the upper room. It is for each of us today. What would Jesus say, were He standing before YOU today? It might well be these very same words: “Peace be with you.” You truly can have peace with God, and peace in any situation in life, as you turn your life over to the resurrected Lord Jesus.

Shawn Thomas is Senior Pastor at Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church in Morganton. His messages and devotionals are available at [www.shawnethomas.com](http://www.shawnethomas.com)



God’s Powerful Voice

By Jerry Lewis  
McDowell County

I have met people with powerful voices. When they speak, people listen. They walk into a room and the entire dynamic changes. Maybe you recall the calming voice of your mother, or perhaps it’s her commanding voice you remember most. Maybe the assuring voice of your father comforts you, or his correcting voice still confronts you.

God’s voice exceeds them all. Consider the psalmist:  
*The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the LORD, over many waters. The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty. The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars; the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon. He makes Lebanon to skip like a calf, and Sirion like a young wild ox. The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire. The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh. The voice of the LORD makes the deer give birth and strips the forests bare, and in his temple all cry, “Glory!”* (Psalm 29:3-9, ESV)

In the beginning God created...with his words, his voice. He started with nothing and said, “Let there be,” and there was. Here in Psalms we discover that his voice is not diminished at all. The God who created with words, shakes his very creation with the same voice with which he created it.

Jesus did too. Asleep in the boat, tired from the demands of his day, he was suddenly awakened by his disciples. The boat was rocking, waves crashing, fear mounting. They thought they were dying!

*And they went and woke him, saying, “Master, Master, we are perishing!” And he awoke and rebuked the wind and the raging waves, and they ceased, and there was a calm. He said to them, “Where is your faith?” And they were afraid, and they marveled, saying to one another, “Who then is this, that he commands even winds and water, and they obey him?”* (Luke 8:24-25, ESV)

You may be in a situation right now that only God’s voice can handle. Unless He steps in, there is no hope. A broken marriage, incurable cancer, unbelievable debt. You need God’s voice. David ends his Psalm with this affirmation: *“May the Lord give strength to his people; may the Lord bless his people with peace.”* (Psalm 29:11, ESV).

Ask for his powerful voice.  
And ask again...and again...and again.



Jerry Lewis is Senior Pastor at Grace Community Church in Marion.



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# How Big Is God to You?

By Billy Graham

In the fourth chapter of Hebrews, verse 12, it says: *"For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart."*

It is the world's best-seller. Yet this book, for the past 200 years, has been under increased attack. Many people, even within the church, have come to doubt whether the Bible is authoritative and trustworthy. When you talk about the Bible, someone will allege "Bibliolatry." In other words, worshipping the Bible and not the Christ of the Bible. No, this is not Bibliolatry; the only knowledge we have of Jesus Christ is in the Bible.

Today there's a growing movement to do away with the Bible. And if this movement succeeds, anarchy will rule. This generation must face the appalling fact that it's either the Bible, or back to the jungles, because that's exactly what will happen.

Now the Bible teaches that God loves. All over the world men hunger to know God. Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, all the religions of the world, arise from man's searching for God. But God has already revealed Himself, and it's reasonable for me to suppose that God, an intelligent Being, would somehow reveal Himself to us as a human race. Even our most atheistic scientists are beginning to say that something is behind the universe. There is some sort of order behind the universe and there must be some sort of intelligence. They may not say it's God, but we call Him God. This Intelligence Who orders, and arranges, and creates, and makes us—down in our hearts we hunger to know Him.

"Down through the years it's been ridiculed, burned, refuted, destroyed, but it lives on. It is the anvil that has worn out many hammers. Most books are born, live a few short years, then go the way of all the earth; they're forgotten. But not the Bible."

Has God revealed Himself?

He has revealed Himself in nature. I look through a telescope and I know there's a God. I look through a microscope and I know there must be a God.

And He has revealed Himself in His Son, Jesus Christ. But we get our knowledge of Christ out of the Bible. Only one or two other men contemporary with Christ ever mentioned that He ever lived, Josephus being one. Our total knowledge of Christ comes from the Bible.

The Bible was written by 40 writers, over a period of 1,600 years, in 66 books. And the great theme from one end of the Bible to the other is redemption—God's love for the human race and God redeeming man and bringing man back to Himself after man had rebelled against God. That's what the Bible is all about.

The prophetic messages of the Bible are coming true in our day. In 2 Timothy, written almost 2,000 years ago, it says, *"But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power..."* (2 Timothy 3:1-5). Isn't that happening? The Bible says in the latter period travel shall increase, knowledge will increase (Daniel 12:4). Look what has happened in the last 75 years in the world.

The whole world has become a neighborhood without being a brotherhood. That's precisely what the Bible said 500 years before Christ.

And Jesus, 2,000 years ago, looking forward, said there would be a day like this. Oh, the Bible is true.

Recent archaeological discoveries have thrown some people for a loss. Several years ago, many writers spoke of the sure results, the absolute certainties and the final position of a science (archaeology) that had disproved the Bible, but these phrases are no longer uttered.

Hundreds of old volumes fill your libraries right now saying that Moses could never have written the first five books of the Bible as is claimed because writing had not even been invented up until that time. But tablets and inscriptions have been found which were written several hundred years before Moses. The Bible was right and scholars wrong.

And then many volumes once filled libraries about John's Gospel. They stated that he could not have written it; that it was not written until the third or fourth century. Yet scholars of Ryland's University, Ryland's Library in Manchester, England, uncovered a fragment from the Gospel of John dating to around 100 A.D., proving that the Gospel of John existed in the first century. The Bible was right and the scholars were wrong. A scientist once said in the New York Times, "Every fact and every science that man has so far discovered adds luster and testimony to the value and integrity of the Bible."

I had to decide one day and I had to do it by faith. I saw all the evidences, but I couldn't prove them. I could almost prove them—but I had to take a step of faith. When I did, my life and ministry was changed. There came an authority, and a power, and an assurance and a security.

But let's see about Jesus—and here was the big convincing thing to me. Jesus quoted constantly the Old Testament and not once did He ever tell us to doubt. Not one time. Not one time did He throw a doubt on the Bible. He quoted from it authoritatively many times. He said the Scriptures cannot be broken. He said all this was done that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled and after His resurrection the Scriptures said, *"And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself"* (Luke 24:27). He was saying, *"The whole Old Testament teaches about Me."*

And then Jesus did something that was fantastic. The two things that are the most difficult for people to believe are that the whale swallowed Jonah and that the flood came in Noah's day and covered the world. And Jesus deliberately picked out those two stories, confirmed them and underlined them. You say,



"Well, Billy, I don't understand. I don't understand all that. I don't understand how a fish swallowed Jonah." But I believe that God is God, He could do it. But I believe even more than that. I believe that Jonah could have swallowed the whale if God wanted him to, because God is God. Now if you wrap God up in a little box and make Him as small as you are, of course it couldn't be done. If you made God as small as your laboratory in the university, He couldn't do it. But God is the God who created all of space and if you believe in that kind of God, He can do anything. And if Jesus said He did it, I believe Jesus.

The very heart of this Bible from Genesis to Revelation is the fact that Jesus Christ is God's Son. Take that by faith, that He was born of the Virgin Mary, and that He died on the cross for a special purpose. It wasn't just death because He was put to death by the Romans. You and I put Him to death. I helped my sins. The Bible says that God took all of our sins and laid them on Him. And it was my sins, your sins, the whole world nailing Him to the cross. But in that cross a great victory came. The Bible tells us that Jesus Christ triumphed over sin and death and the grave and hell and there is hope today—security, peace, assurance—in coming to the cross.

But the first step that you must take is a child-like step. It's a simple step, so simple that many will rebel at it. It's so simple that you may reject it. In fact, the Bible says thousands of people stumble over it because it is so simple, because you see, the man with his Ph.D. has to come like a little child exactly the same way. And that's hard for a businessman or socialite, or union leader, show person, or journalists to do. We don't like to humble ourselves and become small and just come with simple childlike faith. But when you do, your life is changed. Believe that and accept Him by faith into your heart.

But you have to be willing to give up your sins. Repentance means that you acknowledge that you have sinned, that you are willing to turn from them and if you are willing, you come by faith to Christ, and He will give you a new life. And it becomes God's life because the Bible says that God exists from eternity to eternity. Eternal life begins at the moment you receive Christ. It's a new dimension of living. We have third dimension. We're talking about fourth dimension. But I tell you there's another dimension, it's the spiritual dimension that thousands in America have not tried. It's the dimension revealed in this Book—the dimension that Jesus Christ offers free to everyone who will trust Him. D ©1962 BGEA Scripture quotations are taken from The Holy Bible, New King James Version.

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*Joshua 24:15*

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# Billy Graham Evangelistic Association

## What a Tragedy! By Franklin Graham

Could there be anything more that our troubled nation and its leadership needs right now than the wisdom, power and guidance of Almighty God as revealed in the Holy Scriptures?

America's 16th president, Abraham Lincoln, who led the nation with great moral courage, said: "All the good the Savior gave to the world was communicated through this Book. But for it we could not know right from wrong."

John Quincy Adams, the sixth president, remarked, "My custom is to read four or five chapters of the Bible every morning. ... It is an invaluable and inexhaustible mine of knowledge and virtue."

President Harry Truman said, "The fundamental basis of this nation's laws was given to Moses on the Mount. The fundamental basis of our Bill of Rights comes from the teachings we get from Exodus and Saint Matthew, from Isaiah and Saint Paul."

And it was only a few decades ago that President Ronald Reagan said: "Of the many influences that have shaped the United States into a distinctive nation and people, none may be said to be more fundamental and enduring than the Bible." In 1983, Reagan signed into law an Act of Congress proclaiming it as the "Year of the Bible." The Act asserted "a national need to study and apply its teachings."

It was at the very beginning of my father's ministry that he decided once and for all that Scripture was the infallible Word of God, and that his life and preaching ministry would be built on the life-changing power of the Bible. During an era where many denominations and ministries became progressively more liberal and began to doubt the inerrancy of God's Word, my father always lifted his Bible high in the pulpit and stood squarely on its unchanging truth.

In fact, one of his Bibles from an early era of his ministry will be part of the new Museum of the Bible in Washington, D.C., and my hope is that this groundbreaking museum will expose a new generation to the enduring, transforming and saving power of Scripture. God says that His Word will not return void, and I pray that hundreds of thousands of people will come to saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

The museum will open on Nov. 17, just two blocks from the National Mall and three blocks from the U.S. Capitol. It will be a historic moment.

There has never been anything quite like it—a museum dedicated to the unique history, narrative and impact of the Bible through the millennia, filled with Biblical artifacts and manuscripts from Old and New Testament times, all testifying to the incredible role played by God's Word throughout the ages.

The first thing you will see when you enter into the 430,000-square-foot museum is a massive replica of the Gutenberg plates that were used by Johannes Gutenberg to print the world's first Bible in movable type, sparking a revolution in the mass



reproduction of the Scriptures.

You'll also see fragments of the Dead Sea Scrolls, large portions of the Tyndale New Testament, early tracts and Bibles of Martin Luther, and some amazing displays that highlight the Bible's unsurpassed role in influencing entire civilizations with the power of God's transforming truth.

I love the Bible. I love how the Lord speaks to my soul as I begin my days reading passages of Scripture. I love to preach its transforming truths in our Festivals and Crusades.

I can't think of anything more encouraging than a premier exhibit on the historical, cultural and spiritual impact of the Word of God placed in the heart of our nation's capital.

I believe that hundreds of thousands of men, women and children will pass through the Museum of the Bible each year and will leave with new wonder and awe at how God used men to communicate His inspired, authoritative, inerrant Word.

Think of it: 66 books written by more than 40 authors on three continents over a time span of some 1,500 years. All of it with a single, recurring, redemptive theme of a Savior who comes to rescue people from their sins through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ.

Every single word from Genesis to Revelation is God-breathed, as the Spirit of God superintended the minds and pens of men. "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness" (2 Timothy 3:16).

In virtually every sector of public life today, the veracity and relevance of the Scriptures is being questioned. Scholars and theologians constantly cast doubt. Most schools and academies can rarely bring up the topic of Scripture without the fear of legal action (though some are able to present the Bible as literature). Biased state and federal courts and hostile government mandates have served to practically ban any Biblical references in the public square.

When Sen. Marco Rubio recently tweeted Scripture verses John 14:27 and Proverbs 16:3-4, the backlash was immediate. A Washington Post reporter suggested Rubio had been hacked or perhaps "totally lost it." An Esquire blogger called the tweets "oddly terrifying," and another journalist deemed them "unsettling."

Such is the state of affairs in our land, where the Pew Research Center found that fewer than half of adults could name all four Gospels, and only four in 10 knew that Job was a Biblical figure known for following God in the face of great suffering. Nearly 40 percent of American adults seldom or rarely read the Bible.

Many years ago, when I was a young boy, my mother taught me the importance of memorizing key Scriptures. To this day, I can recall many of them, and the promises of God's Word have sustained and guided me through the years.

I love the Bible. I love how the Lord speaks to my soul as I begin my days reading passages of Scripture. I love to preach its transforming truths in our Festivals and Crusades.

That's why it's my fervent hope and prayer that we will have a resurgence of interest and esteem for God's Word. Any renewal or revival movement must have the Bible as the centerpiece, for "faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ" (Romans 10:17). God saves us from sin, and He does so as the truth of God's Word is clearly proclaimed.

John Wycliffe, who will be featured prominently in the Museum of the Bible and who first translated God's Word from Latin into the common English language of the mid-13th century, said: "Holy Scripture is the preeminent authority for every Christian. ... Forasmuch as the Bible contains Christ, that is all that is necessary for salvation." Men like William Tyndale have been burned at the stake for it. Men like Martin Luther have had to hide away in a castle while translating the Scriptures into the language of the people.

And that is why there is no other book on earth that can even compare to this Book—the inspired, infallible, inerrant Word of God. ©2017 BGEA

Scripture quotations are taken from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version.



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Keeping Your Finances Right

By Dr. Tom Walker  
McDowell County

There are many reasons why homes break up. I am going to list several of these for you by way of introduction to our marriage topic:

- 1- Over involvement with members of the opposite sex
- 2- Selfishness in the marriage
- 3- Disrespect toward the other marriage partner.
- 4- Outbursts of anger
- 5- Failing to share feelings with one another
- 6- Lack of physical intimacy
- 7- Failure to mesh lives together through shared activities
- 8- Failure to communicate
- 9- Destructive habits and addictions
- 10- Character defects such as dishonesty and laziness.
- 11- The unequal yoke (believers should marry another believer).

Overlooked by many, poor financial management may well be the number one cause for divorces. When a couple is not wise with their money, when the finances begin to fail and cause extreme pressure in a marriage, trouble is on its way.

It is easy to obtain credit cards, but it is another thing to manage them properly that you might avoid over obligating yourself financially.

What can you do to avoid over obligating yourself when it comes to money?

Talk About Your Finances and Create a Budget



It is essential in most cases for a couple to have a budget. CBS News gave the following information over the Internet:

"Your budget is the lifeline of your personal finances. It doesn't matter whether you choose to create your budget with an advanced budgeting software program like Mint or with a paper and pencil. What matters is that you use a system that works for you. At the end

of the day, your budget should list all the income you have coming in, your fixed expenses, your variable expenses and the date your bills are due.

This step will take you a couple of hours at first. However, once you're over the hump of figuring out realistic budgets to set for spending on groceries, entertainment and other categories, you'll only need to make small tweaks month to month. Every dollar in your budget should have a job. That means each time you receive your paycheck, you should know where and how your money will be used. It could be for fixed expenses, like housing and insurance; variable expenses, like groceries and utilities; or items like savings and investments.

If you have extra money in your budget, send it toward the top item in the financial priorities list you created when you developed your plan. This way, you always have your money working toward the most important financial goal. This takes the guesswork out of budgeting and makes it easier to know how to handle your money.

Eventually, you will reach your financial goals of eliminating your debt and increasing your savings, and somewhere along the way you will notice that your cash flow has increased -- and what seemed like a struggle from paycheck to paycheck slowly disappeared. It all starts with getting ahead that first month, then slowly increasing your savings from there."

Make Sure You Have a Savings Account

It is sad when a financial crisis comes in your married life and there is no savings account to draw money from to meet the unexpected bill.

Even if you are a Christian and say, "Well, the Lord will supply my needs", you still need to remember there is personal responsibility. God has given us a brain and desires that we use it and put money back for a rainy day. It will rain and the unexpected will come our way. Presumption is not faith; there is quite a notable difference between the two.

Saving money is an important matter. Things that are made by man can and will malfunction from time to time. What are you going to do if your well pump fails, if the transmission goes out on your car or if you face a major dental or hospital bill?

A couple ought to save some money every month if at all possible. It may not be a large amount, but saving even a little each month, adds to your emergency resource fund.

Make a goal of how much you plan to save from each month. If you do so, after a while you will see your savings account increasing. That should give a person a great deal of satisfaction.

Use Credit Cards Wisely

Credit cards are easy to obtain but sometimes difficult to control. When our eyes get bigger than our wallet and our financial resources, then trouble is on its way.

Debt can tally up quickly with the misuse of credit cards. The credit card companies want you to build up your debt with them, so they can charge you unfair prices for using their money. The interest on several cards combined can become so great that you simply pay on the interest and bring your debt down very little each month.

The misuse of cards can become a trap that is very hard to find your way out of immediately.

The best way to use credit cards is to pay off what you have charged at the



end of the month. If you do so, you are not giving the credit card lenders a lot of money for using their money. It is not wise to give the credit card people money that could be in your pocket or your savings account.

You can become too financially obligated that you have no choice what you are going to do with your money after you receive your paycheck each week or each month.

If necessary, go to a reputable financial counselor to assist you in getting your finances in order.

Realize Misuse of Finances Can Be One of the Most Divisive Forces in a Marriage

When things get out of kilter in a marriage relationship, often the blame game begins. One blames the other for the financial woes they are facing. As a result, a couple gets farther and farther apart until their marriage is totally destroyed.

Husbands and wives can have different ideas about money. While one wants to be conservative with their money, the other wants to spend it as soon as he receives it. One partner may want to give to the church, while the other one does not see the need of it. One may want to go on expensive vacations, while the other partner thinks it is best to stay around home rather than deplete their finances on an expensive vacation trip. A couple needs to get together over money lest it pulls them apart.

If mismanagement of finances is the number one cause of marriage failure, it would behoove us to be very wise in how we deal with the money the Lord allows us to have at our fingertips. We must do all we can to ensure that our marriages last and stand the test of time.

If a person needs some good information on finances and how to manage them, Dave Ramsey has some excellent materials that will be a big help to you. Just go to the following web site: [www.daveramsey.com](http://www.daveramsey.com) for tools to assist you in putting your finances in order.

Honor the Lord with your Finances

God has a simply formula for the Christian's financial success. It is found in the Word of God: Malachi 3:8-10 says, "Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it."

If you honor the Lord in your giving, He can make the funds you have go a lot further. If the Lord can take five loaves and two small fishes and feed a multitude, then He can take what we have and cause what resources we possess to go a lot further.

Tom Walker is President of Foothills Baptist Bible College and Pastor of Zion Hill Baptist Church in Marion, NC.

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Hospice and Palliative Care of the Blue Ridge

Welcomes Kris Goforth

By Brent Price  
Mitchell County

Hospice of the Blue Ridge, formally Mitchell County Hospice, is proud to welcome Kris Goforth to our team. Kris is a life-long resident of Avery County and has over ten years' experience in the healthcare field. He is a familiar face to many who have been blessed by his care and compassion.



Kris Goforth

We believe Kris brings a wide range of gifts and talents that will be invaluable as he works to create and maintain relationships with physicians and other healthcare providers. However, the most important relationships are those he is developing with patients and families who need our services.

Kris has the heart and integrity to enter into these relationships with the care and consideration each patient and family deserves. We are blessed that Kris has joined us and believe he will bless many others as well.



Reverend Brent Price is a chaplain at Hospice & Palliative Care of the Blue Ridge.

Celebrate Recovery

continued from page 8

Locally we have drug courts in several counties but not all. This type of treatment would probably require inpatient and outpatient treatment facilities and our smaller counties don't have enough of these.

One of the things I noted in researching the Drug Court was no mention of the faith-based community. What could happen if the churches stepped up to fill the gaps in some of the treatment that is lacking in the system because of funding. Our church is now involved in a program called "Celebrate Recovery". Could these types of programs be used to lessen the strain on the government budgets?

But, this leads me to the 2nd observation. We need Christians to step up to the plate and begin to treat these people like God's children. When someone comes to your church dressed differently or maybe a little dirty or they have a drug reputation, what is your reaction? Whether we will admit it or not, we probably withdraw a little. They don't need our condemnation, but a loving acceptance. Could we become their friend? Ask them to have coffee? Take them out to eat? We need to get rid of our pharisaical attitude and know that as our attorney general said, "Except for the grace of God, there go I."

\*NADCP

\*www.encyclopedia.com

Barbara Harrell loving mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Part owner Blue Ridge Christian News.

Crossword Solution

A	B	B	A		E	B	B	E	D		R	A	T	S
F	A	I	R	S		L	O	V	E		E	C	H	O
A	S	T	E	P		E	W	E	S		P	A	I	R
R	E	S	T	L	E	S	S		E	M	E	R	G	E
			W	I	N	S		W	R	E	A	T	H	S
A	L	L	O	T	S		F	A	T	A	L			
L	A	Y		S	U	P	E	R		T	E	S	T	S
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S	E	E	D	S		N	E	S	T	S		G	E	N
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A	R	A	M	A	I	C		S	A	V	E	No.223		
M	A	T	I	N	G		B	E	L	I	E	V	E	S
A	H	O	T		H	O	R	N		O	L	I	V	E
L	A	M	E		E	N	O	S		R	E	N	E	W
E	B	B	S		R	O	W	E	D		D	E	N	S

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Sudoku Solution

7	3	6	1	8	2	9	5	4
1	2	5	9	6	4	7	8	3
4	9	8	7	3	5	1	6	2
2	8	9	5	1	3	4	7	6
6	5	4	8	2	7	3	1	9
3	1	7	4	9	6	8	2	5
5	7	3	2	4	8	6	9	1
8	6	1	3	5	9	2	4	7
9	4	2	6	7	1	5	3	8

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# Clint's Chronicles on the Funny Farm

## The Rest of the Story

Doug Harrell

Clint was always interesting to watch and listen to, his mechanical ability was next to zero but his overall intellect was close to 100. I had the opportunity to see him in a high powered corporate arena and also on the farm. He really fit better in the corporate arena, but he certainly kept things lively on the farm. This story is no exception to the rule. You just have to laugh out loud at the experiences.

Dear Friends,

A devoted reader, and a self-proclaimed Funny Farm Fan, recently admonished me... "If I were you I would stay away from that Doug Harrell. When you see him coming you should run the other way!" And I replied, "Where were you 'back in the day' when you might have spared me the dangers of Harrell Hill Farms?" She, of course, just chuckled.

Again, I come before you this month to share another tale of terror. You know, even I am astonished by the sheer volume of perilous escapades which befell me during the spring and summer of 2010. You do realize, of course, that this is my 20th Funny Farm column...how is it possible that so much drama could occur in a 7 month stint on the farm? But it did and at least the nightmares are fewer now that I can share my stories with you.

## A New Look

You may recall that when I arrived at Harrell Hill Farms I was a BIG CHUBBY city boy from Hendersonville, NC. At a svelte 299 lbs I was most comfortable dressed in a parachute; my wardrobe options were limited at best. (Having flashbacks, even as I type, of trudging my rotund self up and down the mountains dragging equipment, GIANT backpacks filled with fertilizer, etc...stumbling and rolling down multiple hills). It is a miracle that my heart didn't explode early in my farming career.

Well it took only 2-3 months before I was transformed from Shamu to the lean-mean Farmer Clint you know today ☺. Now, a shadow of my former self, I began longing for some true farmer's attire.

One summer's day Doug dispatched me to Griffith's General Store in Tipton Hill. (My flashback continues...it was less than 90 days since I'd purchased SIZE FIFTY jeans to engulf my generous girth. I have a vision of nearly needing a rope to cinch them since I could not find a large enough belt.) Anyway, I don't recall the purpose for going there this day, but am certain it was to purchase some piece of farm paraphernalia which I would never recognize without a written note from Doug.

Anyway, as I browsed the millions of cool gizmos in this rural Mecca, I caught sight of my heart's new desire...genuine overalls. I mean the bib kind, with the suspender thingies and pockets galore. I was in love.

Recall that upon arrival at the Harrell farmhouse a short while back I had no money...zero dollars...nada. But Doug recently shared some \$\$\$ from an outside job he'd obtained for raking hay...my specialty as you may recall. I decided then, on the spot, to acquire my very first Farmer Clint bib-overalls ☺. I must confess, although not with false-pride, I was looking good! Being a bit shy and not wanting to appear too dapper, I decided to keep the secret of my new acquisition from Doug until the next morning.

Well, as usual, morning (or I should say middle-of-the-night) came with the familiar bellowing from my friend at the foot of the staircase..."Let's go, Pollard! We're burning daylight!" Why does he do that ☺! I sprung to my feet, showered in 3 minutes, and quickly donned my new duds. I must say, I was looking good.

Doug was in the kitchen, making his patented buckwheat pancakes which I drown in homemade molasses, when I made my entrance. He welcomed me, as usual, to the table but averted looking in my direction for long. A little 'Doug-smirk' on his face, those eyes twinkling as they do, he said, "Nice clothes". That was it...I think shock-and-awe struck him as I pranced about in my new persona.

## Bees In My Britches?

Today was to be another 'teaching moment'...Farmer Clint's first use of a chainsaw. I was anxious, a bit terrified to tell the truth, but excited at the same time. We were going to blaze a trail up a mountainside to prepare for building a road later that summer. I mean, think about it, how much better could things be... beautiful, cool summer's morn... my best friend and I side-by-side...I would learn a new skill with a new tool...and I was looking like a million bucks.

Doug is always very serious when he begins mentoring me about DANGER- OUS implements - today was no exception. He warned me never to use a chain-saw unless someone was with me; I learned where to stand in relation to the tree being felled; he demonstrated how to cut little wedgies in a tree to make it fall where you want it; he talked about the importance of sharpening the blade; the need to check the oil each time you refuel the tool; blah, blah, blah! (Of course, I listen intently but make him do all that maintenance stuff since I'm scared of it!)

At last, in answer to prayer, Doug stopped talking/warning/chastising/teaching/ preaching and walked away. I cranked that saw and felt the power of Paul Bunyan descend upon me...Farmer Clint the Lumberjack!

To tell the absolute truth, I was only permitted to chop down the it'sy bitsy trees...well, if I am totally honest, the ones 'assigned' to me were more like twigs...but who cares! I was free and empowered...alone with a power saw. Dang it was cool!

I sawed, chopped and mutilated dozens of sprigs that morning...rejoicing as



each one fell with a THUD (okay it was more like a 'plink'). Lest you think I was on safe ground, know that I was challenged to NOT TUMBLE down the hill with chainsaw churning away!

After a brief while I began feeling a tingling sensation in my nether-regions and legs. Chalking it up to adrenaline, I imagined that I was just excited in my new role. When suddenly something stabbed me in a place one should not be stabbed...I felt scratching, itching, stinging sensations from my chiseled abs to my ankles...BEES, it must be BEES in my new overalls!

## Sawdust Stingers

Not wishing to make a scene, and hoping to avoid another embarrassing event, I extinguished my chainsaw (or turned it off - for you novices) and bolted behind a big pine. I began disrobing, dropping those overalls to the ground and slapping at my various body parts. I must kill the swarm of critters that was aggressively devouring my flesh!

As my pants hit the ground I noted ton of sawdust cascade from beneath my shirt and pant legs...my sweaty carcass causing much of the chain-saw dust to cling like blood-sucking leeches.

Quickly, I mused to myself... "Perhaps overalls are not the best attire when using a chainsaw?" You see, as the wood chips exit the saw they are propelled backwards and, as you might envision, those tiny slices of wood were entering the open bib of my overalls. So, my friends, my pants were filled with sawdust.

Well I emptied my Farmer Clint pants and resumed the task at hand - blessed that God spared me from another attack of killer bees, choosing instead to teach me another farm lesson...NEVER EVER WEAR OVERALLS WHEN USING A CHAINSAW!

## Back At The Farmhouse

Showered, dressed and gathered around the dinner table, I thanked Doug for my "chainsaw badge" (I insisted that whenever I did something without getting killed he had to give me an achievement badge). He asked if I enjoyed it and I replied, "Yeah, but I learned to not wear my overalls when running a chainsaw... all the sawdust goes in the bib."

There it was, that little glimmer in his Farmer Doug eyes, "Pollard, you are a hoot."

I'm not sure, but I think perhaps he witnessed my unclad self frolicking in the woods trying to rid myself of the killer wood chips. Whatever the case, Doug never again chose to let me use that chainsaw again, hmmm. And, FYI those overalls are too big now...think I'll get a new pair for a date with my new bride Kay. Think she'll be impressed?

At the end of the day I praised God that I had survived yet another near-death happening on the Funny Farm ☺.

Humbled in the Hills,

Farmer Clint (aka THE Lumberjack)



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### Why I Love the Bible

By Rev John McCoury  
Roan Mountain, Tennessee



*O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day. - Psa. 119:97* Can we say with the psalmist "I have rejoiced in the way of thy testimonies ... I will delight myself in thy statutes." I love the Bible because it is the Word of God. Both, the external and the internal evidences for this are overwhelming ... God speaks through the Bible to man, and the believing heart is changed. That's external evidence. Bible accounts of saints and sinners alike with our own experience. That is internal evidence. I love the Bible for its unity and union: Many authors in different places and circumstances wrote the Bible over a period of many years, yet it has a unified message about God's purpose for man and His plan of salvation. I love the Bible because it is strictly honest about my condition as a sinner. It is not biased toward sinful man even though its authors were men. Jeremiah 17:9 declares this without apology: "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked." I love the Bible because the Holy Spirit speaks to my need through it, first by interpreting it; second by convicting me; and third by condemning me. Finally, it presents the remedy of salvation through faith in the blood sacrifice of Jesus Christ- I know He died for me (Romans 3:20-26).

I love the Bible for its consolations, its confirmations, and its conciliation. It pours the refreshing blessings of its promises into our parched and thirsty souls, and it satisfies us over and over again. After many followers had turned away from Christ because of some hard saying, the Lord questioned the twelve disciples, "Will ye also go away?" Peter answered, "Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life" (John 6:67-68). The same declaration applies perfectly to the Bible. Thy testimonies also are my delight and my counselors. - Psa. 119:24 We affirm the human origin of Scripture, for it was written by human beings and bears the marks of human authorship. However, we also affirm the divine origin of Scripture that God superintended the authors of the biblical text in such a way that the final product cannot teach falsehood. If we believe otherwise, then we have denied the omnipotence of God and have no reason to trust that He can save us. The power and infallibility of scripture ISAIAH 55:10-11 "So shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it" (v 11). Isaiah 55:10-11 emphasizes the power that the Lord has invested in His revelation. The word that goes forth from the mouth of our Creator-which is Scripture, as Scripture is "God-breathed" (2 Tim. 16-17)-cannot fail to accomplish the Lord's purposes for it. When God sends forth His Word in order to bring about a person's salvation, that person will not finally resist His revelation. It will convert the man, woman, or child that God intends to save. At the same time, when the Lord sends forth His Word to someone He has not chosen for salvation, that revelation will result in the hardened person's hardening his heart even further. God's Word is powerful and effective both to reveal the way of salvation to Christ's sheep and to hide it from the goats, those who have not been chosen from the foundation of the world for redemption (Matt 11:2 5-2 7). Just as the Word of God cannot fail to achieve the purposes for which it is given, Scripture cannot fail to teach the truth. The Scriptures are infallible, that is, incapable of teaching error. This is a necessary consequence of divine inspiration and the omnipotence of God. Scripture is God-breathed, and since God is truth Himself (Jesus, who is God incarnate, identifies Himself as truth; John 14-6), He is incapable of telling any lie. "Every word of God proves true," as Proverbs 30:5 tells us. The power of God guarantees the infallibility of His precious Word. Some people argue that it is possible for Scripture to contain errors because it was written by human beings, and human beings are capable of error and actually making an error are two different things. "All things are possible with God" (Mark 10-2 7), and surely God can inspire people to write in such a way that their words cannot teach error.



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John McCoury is pastor of Evergreen church in Roan Mountain, Tennessee and also chaplain at Roan Highlands Nursing Center.



"Let Sleeping Dogs Lie..."

By Timothy W. Tron  
Burke County

The rain fell in large comforting drops. It had been a sultry afternoon in our little town of Collettsville. My clothes were soaked through with sweat, so the coolness of the precipitation was appreciated. The rain had stopped my work on the land and allowed me the opportunity to run to the store for fuel for the tractor. Closing the door of my truck, I turned to walk inside to prepay. The first thing that caught my eye was the pair of dogs lying on the porch, one reclining against the wall and the other reposing peacefully upon the bench. Earlier that morning when I passed, they were on the opposite end of the store, sleeping under the shade of the shelter. People passed, coming and going from within the store at an almost constant rate, yet the two seemed none the more bothered. Neither beast stirred from their sleep. Their carefree manner seemed so inviting; it made you almost want to join them.

The first thing that came to mind were the scenes from the Beverly Hillbillies when Jed Clampett would be sitting out in front of the mansion whittling on a stick, while Duke, the old bloodhound would be sleeping nearby. All that was missing was Jed and his carving knife. Then again, other than the fact that the community was in constant motion, there were actually plenty of "Jeds" around, they just didn't have time to stop and sit on this particular day. If one were to pause long enough to take heed, they might see logging trucks roaring past one minute, a landscaping crew the next, or perhaps a caravan of motorcycle riders heading for the winding roads nearby. Yet, amongst all the buzz of the daily grind in the valley, there was also a sense of peace and serenity. Call it the aura of the John's River that flowed peacefully behind the store, call it the sweetness of the pure mountain air, but it was something that seemed to float over the area no matter the day or time.

One might think of this as a little slice of heaven, where the cool waters flow and the people all say "Howdy," but it is much more. The history portrays devastation, death, and mourning, but through it all, the hearty mountain people here have survived. The scripture, "My Grace is sufficient for you, we find strength in Him in our weakness," comes to mind in such moments. Their memories tell of stories of struggle and survival. They seldom shrink from any danger, for their spirits are embodied in the ancient tones of those distant lands from which they traveled centuries before. A hearty breed of people that conquered many lands beyond their own, they now have settled into lives that are more complacent than any time before in their history. Yet, occasionally there are tales that rival those deeds of old.

Today we take for granted so many things. Ms. Zelma and Ms. Clara shared with me this morning of their Grandmother who was a midwife dating back to the early part of the 20th century. She was so important to the area that she was the only person with a car. She would haul people down pig paths crossed with deep ruts of wagon wheels, car bouncing wildly, while she raced to the next person or persons in need. Ms. Zelma recalled her car doors encompassed both the front and back seats. "Huge doors no child could handle," she reminisced. Her grandmother was one of the last "Mountain Doctors," as Granny on the Beverly Hillbillies might say. It was her knowledge of herbs, natural cures, and the "Old Ways," that made her a true M.D. Today, so much of that past has been forgotten, erased by our failure to communicate that invaluable wealth of information from one generation to the next. So, we rely on pharmaceuticals, food industries, and many other man-made, processed entities we either consume or take to supplement what the Lord hath given. All the while, cases of cancers and heart disease continue to rise to new heights.

In the end, we don't take what the Lord hath provided, because of what was taken for granted; so much the irony of it all. If we would only live as God had intended.



Our society's pace is dictated by the world in which we live, creating little time for the "Old Ways." We find it easier to justify buying the can of beans rather than canning our own. Meanwhile, the meat we consume has been pumped full of growth hormones, and additives to make it more appealing and sellable in the marketplace. In the old days, the animals would be processed in community hog killings, for example, not only providing the nutrients of protein to live on, but also keeping the purity of the food as it had been intended from the beginning. But not just the food was preserved, so were the ways of the people by coming together as a community. In those gatherings, whether they were snapping beans, putting up hay, or killing hogs, they talked while they worked. There the communication carried on, and in that way, those cures and tales of old would be passed from one generation to the next. Later, in the slower seasons, they would be retold around the winter fireplaces while their bellies would be filled with the foodstuffs that had been prepared in the easy, summer days. When they read from "The Book," from the faint glow of the lamp light or wood fire, the words would have more significance because the era in which they lived more closely matched those of Biblical times, as God had meant it to be.

If only we'd take the time to slow down and sit for a spell. Like those dogs, let us find ourselves just soaking in the moment. Come join me and sit for a spell.  
"Yep, the rain is good."  
"We been having some goodins!"  
"Toad stranglers yesterdee!"  
"Yep, river come up a bit!"  
"Let sleeping dogs lie," they say, and so we will, but not for long.  
We must awaken the sleeping fold.  
There is much to testify for in this world, and the fields are ready for harvest.  
Go yea unto all nations and make disciples for Christ, for this is our mission.  
Thanks be to God.

Timothy W. Tron is the Executive Director of the Waldensian Trail of Faith. He lives in Valdese with his family. He is the author of, "Bruecke to Heaven," and an active blogger, artist and musician. Timothy also has a BSEE from UF, is an Eagle Scout and is Vice President of the Valdese Merchants Assoc. He has been Ordained to perform weddings at the Trail and attends several area churches seeking to serve the Lord every day.



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## The Rotary of Spruce Pine

### Seniors of the Month

By Doug Sudduth  
Mitchell County

At their meeting on September 21st, the Rotary Club of Spruce Pine welcomed Mitchell High School Seniors of the Month, Anna Zheng and Garrett Buchanan, and Grant Sparks, Counselor at MHS.

Anna Zheng shared her appreciation for the academic courses and for being a part of a community in which she has learned life skills that will be assets in her future. She has been class president since her freshman year and currently serves as president of FBLA and captain of Varsity Cheerleading. She credits these experiences for her developing leadership skills and building her self-confidence. Her future plans include attending UNC at Chapel Hill and studying dentistry.

Garret Buchanan spoke of his faith as the focal point of his identity and the value he places on integrity, honesty, and empathy. He has been involved in community projects and helped families who were affected by Hurricane Matthew last year and currently serves as student Representative to the Mitchell County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council. A member of the football and wrestling teams, Garret still finds time to enjoy reading, writing and drawing, especially about things in nature. His future plans include studying health sciences at Duke or UNC at Chapel Hill with the goal of becoming a surgeon and returning to western NC to practice.

The members of the Rotary Club of Spruce Pine congratulate Anna Zheng and Garrett Buchanan as exemplary high school students and wish them future success as they work to accomplish their educational and career goals.

*Doug Sudduth is the Public Relations Officer for the Spruce Pine Rotary Club.*

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# Berry Chapel Baptist Church

## What Is Life

By Pastor Steve Williams  
Mitchell County

The Bible tells us a lot about life. James 4:14 says .... *For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.* Our lives have also been compared with grass that withereth away, and flowers that fade away. All three of these comparisons tell us a great truth about Life, "It Is Short." So, if life is short, what must we do with it? We must do all we can to line up our lives with the Word of God and be the person God wants us to be. Sounds simple, but it is a very hard thing to do.

When you ask people, what is life they will give you different answers. It's Wonderful, It's Challenging, It's Hard to Understand, It's Depressing, It's Not Fair and you could just keep on going, but Life is really just how you look at it. The other day I was sitting in my study thinking about this question. What Is Life? And I thought, people are looking for happiness in life. They are looking for something to give them some rest and relaxation. They're searching for something that will fill a void they have in their lives, and they will try many different things to do this. People get involved in many different activities, trying to find just what they are looking for. Then I look up and see my Golf Clubs sitting in the corner, and it came to me that life is like a game of Golf. Now before you quit reading this article or say I'm not interested in golf, or I don't care about golf, or that Golf doesn't have anything to do with God, Please, read just a little further. Give me a chance to explain to you what I believe God has shown me as I was sitting there thinking about this question "What Is Life? Life is finding God and learning about God. It's called Christianity. That's What Life Really is about.

Now, if I were to tell you that life is like a game of golf, the first thing a lot of people would say is, Steve, golf and Christianity have nothing in common. Well if you'll let me make a comparison between Golf and Christianity. I believe it will become clear.

People say Golf is a senseless game because all you are doing is chasing a little white ball all over the place trying to get it in a hole.

Life with Out God is also senseless because you are chasing nothing, expecting to find something, only to be let down.

Golf is Difficult, and you must Practice it to be good at it.

Christianity is also difficult, and it too must be Practiced Daily if we expect to get better at it.

Golf is all about being Consistent in obtaining a better score.

Christianity is about living a consistent life for the Lord, every day, so we may develop a better life.

Now in Golf there's a Starting Point, you must tee the ball up to get started.

Christianity starts with God, when you Believe in God and Accept Him to be your personal Savior.

In Golf, you need to line up with the ball before you hit it if you expect it to go where you want it to.

Christianity, your life must line up with God's Word if you expect to experience what God has in store for you.

Golf you have to Keep your eye on the ball to make a good hit.

Christianity, you must keep your eyes on God so you can follow Him.

Golf you must follow through on your swing, because if you don't, you will either hook or slice, or you will see your ball go in the wrong direction.

Christianity, you must follow through in your walk with God, or you will find yourself going the wrong way.

Golf you must beware of all the different hazards on the course, like Water, High Grass, Woods, and the Out of bounds areas.

Christianity, you must beware of the traps of Satan that he has set, Distraction, Temptations, Choices, you have to make along the way.

And in golf, if you do all things you'll still have some bad shots along the way, but over all you have a better game.

And in Christianity, if you do all these things you're still going to have bad days, hard times, and life will not always make sense, but you will develop a better and stronger life.

Life's Victories don't come by accident, it comes by practice, and until we start practicing what God's Word tells us we are going to find ourselves in a rough Predicament.

Fact: The reason I'm not good in golf is because I don't practice enough. Could this be the reason so many struggle with their Christian life, there is not enough practice taking place?

Words of Wisdom:

- Only God can change my life, so I must choose Him. N/A
- There are two great days in a person's life - the day we are born and the day we discover why. William Barclay
- Life is really simple, but we insist on making it complicated. N/A
- Life is full of happiness and tears; be strong and have faith. N/A
- The good life is one inspired by love and guided by the Lord. N/A

A Little Laughter

A little girl, late for Sunday School, was running as fast as she could toward church. As she ran, she prayed, "Dear Jesus, please don't make me late for Sunday School." Just as she was in sight of the church, she tripped and fell, bruising her knee and dirtying her clothes. Undisturbed, the little girl got up and started running again, this time praying, "Dear Lord, please don't make me late for Sunday School, but please don't push me, either."

Steve Williams is the Pastor of Berry Chapel Baptist Church in Spruce Pine.



# Faith Fellowship Church, Newdale

## Movie Ministry

By Libby Miller  
Lincoln County

We live in a visual society. Movies give us an opportunity to sit back, relax and enjoy learning. If you are seeking a closer relationship with God, yet, your life is too busy or hectic, or you may find the Bible difficult to read and understand, or maybe you did not have the opportunity to attend church as a child, our Movie Ministry may be just the thing for you. The movies shown will visually take you from Genesis through Revelation giving you a broad understanding of the entire Bible! (The movies we will use are under our CVLI License)

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Libby is a member of Faith Fellowship Church in Newdale and has taught Sunday School for 38 years.



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Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them:  
because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the  
world. 1 John 4:4



# Overcoming Adversity

## Congratulations to Michael Harris

By Doug Harrell  
Madison County

Many people have challenges in life and those of you that have had the pleasure of meeting Michael are aware of his many challenges and maybe a few of his accomplishments as well. Michael grew up in the Burnsville area and attended schools in that area. In 2009 Michael graduated from NCSU with a degree in Forest Management and minors in Business Administration and Agriculture Business Management. Shortly after graduating he went to work with a line clearance and arboriculture company in the Asheville area and was involved in an accident that changed his life forever. A five-hundred-pound limb fell out of a tree and destined him to live the rest of his life as a paraplegic. Since that time, Michael has accomplished many things to be proud of including marrying his beautiful wife Tiffany. In August Michael received his Master's Degree in Business Administration from Gardner Webb University, graduating with a 3.95 GPA.

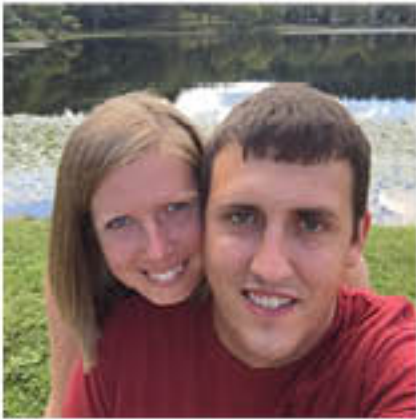


In talking with Michael, his love for his church and church family shows through in his conversation. He and Tiffany attend First Baptist in Burnsville, where he and his family have been members for years. One of the reasons that Michael gives for his being able to move forward with his life was the love and acceptance shown him by his church family, and he thanks them from the bottom of his heart. Family and friends have also had a tremendous impact on his life, his dad and mother were totally supportive and were the ultimate care givers. He lost his mother last year, and that was hard to handle. His father, Tony Harris, went through cancer and even in the face of all this, faith remained strong. Childhood friendships have also helped carry him through hard times with fishing trips and other shows of support and acceptance of him with the different lifestyle he has had to live.

Michael wants to encourage each of us to be willing to really be supportive of those around us that face challenges of all kinds. A warm smile and show of support can mean so much to someone that is hurting and facing struggles that most of us never face. Let us all remember, there but for the Grace of God go I. Congratulations to Michael on the continued journey of success that he and Tiffany are embarked on, thank you for letting your love of Christ continue to show through loud and strong in the face of adversity. May God continue to guide your path and bless your efforts and thank you for being the example God would have you to be. A light for others to follow by being the person you are.



**Comments from Michael:**  
In thinking of church, especially during these incredibly divisive times, it should be a place where we affirm one another. Not criticize or degrade each other. It should be the place where each person can be their true self, and not worry about what others think, because we all need to admit and know that we are sinners and fall short. As a society, we love rules. We love for someone to just give us the answer because we are intellectually lazy. I feel this is not the correct approach in life, or faith. If you go to church just to get answers, you're not being intellectually challenged. In order to learn and grow with God, you should leave with more questions than answers. This way you want to know more, and search in order to learn. In thinking of rules, I feel it would be awesome for churches not to display the ten commandments, but the beatitudes. As the body of Christ on this planet, and in attempt to unite, we should not build walls. We should build bridges in order to live out his mission outlined in Luke 4:18-19. An authentic religion where the display of love, compassion, and empathy to everyone is seen, and where all who are weary and seek rest are welcomed is what people are searching for. Seeing and experiencing acts like these show who God truly is, and it changes lives. These acts are not experienced or seen in the rules or processes which so many desire and claim would fix societies problems (i.e. praying and doing the pledge of allegiance each day in school, being in church every time the doors are open, etc.). They are seen and experienced by paying close attention to what is said in the red letters. Following this example can help you act in such a way that you are proof of a living God.



*Doug Harrell is a life-long resident of Mitchell County, Owner of Harrell Hill Farms, Inc, a member of Bear Creek Baptist Church and Publisher of the Blue Ridge Christian News.*

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## McDowell Pregnancy Care Center

### McDowell Residents Walk in Support of Life

By Marion Stephan  
McDowell County



"Sadly, one of the most dangerous places for this generation is in a mother's womb," asserts Mike Zullo, a member of the McDowell Pregnancy Care Center's Board of Directors. Zullo, pastor of Amazing Grace Baptist Church in Marion, was sharing his insights through the Center's video "You Don't Have to Walk Alone."

On Saturday, September 23, about 300 men, women, and children stepped around the YMCA outdoor greenway in Marion so that local families will not have to walk alone through unplanned pregnancies. The occasion was the McDowell Pregnancy Care Center's 6th Annual Walk for Life.

The walk raised almost \$27,000 to help the Center provide support to help mothers bring their babies to term. These resources include pregnancy tests, peer counseling, diapers and baby supplies and ultrasounds showing the new life growing within a mother.

Much of the money raised was through donations collected by the walkers and money collected from local businesses and churches who purchased spots on the back of event t-shirts. Funds were also raised through "Celebrate Life Footprint" signs arrayed along the trail. Supporters donated \$5 to display the names of special individuals on the signs.

Church teams harvesting the most donations this year were: Glenwood Baptist Church, collecting \$4,665; Providence United Methodist Church, \$2,763; and New Manna Baptist Church, \$2,065. These teams received plaques for their efforts.

Top individual fundraisers were: Denis Love, Glenwood Baptist Church, \$2,400; Landon Dowdle, Providence United Methodist Church, \$1,718; and Jake McKinney, Nebo Baptist, \$620. These winners received their choice of the door prizes donated by local merchants.

Also contributing to this year's effort were about 20 volunteers, who manned registration tables, painted faces, served snacks, and inflated balloons. Businesses and individuals donated more than 100 door prizes distributed via random drawings at the end of the walk, according to Amy Dowdle, the walk's organizer. Local Christian musicians also offered up their voices to the effort. Performing for the walkers were the Hipps Family and the His Place Worship Center Praise Team.



Marion Stephan is a Christian freelance writer and attends New Covenant Community Church in Marion.

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Forest for the Trees

By Kate Groff  
Yancey County

On October 7, the Toe River Arts Burnsville Gallery will be hidden within the trees for an exhibit entitled "Forest for the Trees"—paintings by Debra Carpenter. The exhibit will continue through November 11.

Debra moved to Spruce Pine from St. Augustine in 2016. For years, she would work in her little house on the beach exploring color and discovering a new way to interpret the landscape. "My eyes were losing far sight. I noticed the way light 'mosaics' between the branches of trees. I painted that using the letters and light play..." When she decided it was time to make a move, she recalled the many trips to Penland with her mother and the wonderful area. A listing on Zillow drew her to Spruce Pine; she has "never been happier."

"For many decades, I experimented with interpretations of trees, from the focus on the way light through their limbs seemed to break into prisms, to color patterns thrown on fields like confetti. I played with background color and contrast; it seemed as if the limbs were afire...Painting is a communication, a reaching out,



from the canvas to the artist to the viewer...a constant journey with an ever-illusive destination. It is my hope, you, in viewing these selections, will also enjoy the ride."

"Forest for the Trees" will explode in huge displays of color on the gallery walls from October 7 through November 11 at the Burnsville Gallery, 102 West Main Street. Gallery hours

are 10:30 am to 5 pm, Tuesday through Saturday. Toe River Arts is a non-profit dedicated to connecting arts and the community and supported by individuals, organizations, and businesses who believe in the benefit of an arts filled life to a thriving community. For more information, please call 828.682.7215 or visit the website, [toeriverarts.org](http://toeriverarts.org).

Kate Groff is the Programs Coordinator for the Toe River Arts Council.



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would like to give special thanks to the Rod-Busters of WNC, without their kindness and dedication, this event would not have been possible.





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geant Trotter, played by Steve Elderbrock, doesn't know which of the characters snowbound in the old inn is a murderer. Maybe it's Mrs. Boyle, played by Rose Ray. Agatha Christie's *The Mousetrap* opens on September 30, running for three weekends. Tickets are available at [www.parkwayplayhouse.com](http://www.parkwayplayhouse.com) or by calling 828-682-4285.

### October Free Seminars Mayland Small Business Center

#### Basics of Bookkeeping (3 Hours)

This class will discuss the four most important financial statements in business: the personal financial statement, the balance sheet, the income statement, and the cash flow statement. The class will also cover basic bookkeeping and record keeping skills. Attendees will gain a workable knowledge of how to properly record financial transactions for a business. 10/2, M, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Fee Waived - Hollifield-Mitchell 828.766.1295

#### How to Market Your Business Online to Increase Sales (2 Hours)

This seminar teaches how to get your business successfully launched into the digital world as well as online marketing strategies that will increase sales. Energetic and Informative Glo Digital Public Relations Director, James "Zen" Douglas will discuss current online marketing platforms that are proven to build sales. 10/5, TH, 5:30-7:30 p.m. -Fee Waived -Douglas-Mitchell 828.766.1295

#### Your Small Business Taxes (3 Hours)

Gain a solid understanding of taxes required for small business owners and develop the best tax strategy for your business. Attendees will become familiar with the latest tax forms and procedures for both state and federal taxes. Class will be taught by a CPA. 10/9, M, 5:30-8:30 p.m. -Fee Waived -Sisk-Morris-Mitchell 828.766.1295

#### Create. Market. Sell! (2 Hours)

World renowned basket maker and marketing expert, Matt Tomney, started out creating baskets for fun from Kudzu. Merging his love for art with his knowledge of marketing, Matt went full time into the business of making baskets. He made his passion his job and now owns a lucrative studio on the River Arts District of Asheville, NC. Sign up for this seminar and get ready to create, market, and sell your art! 10/11, W, 4:00-6:00 p.m. -Fee Waived -Tomney

TRAC Art Resource Center, Spruce Pine 828.766.1295

#### Wooly Worm Craft Show Primer (2 Hours)

Just in time for the Wooly Worm Festival! In fact, this seminar will be located at the site of the 2017 Wooly Worm festival at the Banner Elk Mayland Satellite Campus! Learn how to properly display your items to get the attention of prospective buyers. Topics will include booth types, setting up, tent styles and recommendations, common show requirements, building displays that target your buyer, and the elements of a customer friendly booth. 10/12, TH, 4:30-6:30 p.m. -Fee Waived -Styles-Banner Elk 828.766.1295

#### Business Plan Presentations and Graduation (2 Hours)

Development of a business pitch is a crucial factor to gain funding and build a customer base. In this seminar, each participant will be provided a maximum of ten minutes to present their story, passion, and business idea to their classmates. Graduation follows with a presentation of certificates. 10/16, M, 5:30-7:30 p.m. -Fee Waived -Cook/Phillips-Mitchell 828.766.1295

#### How to Sell Your Product or Service Online (2 Hours)

Developing a revenue stream from online sales is often an easy way for small businesses to increase profits. Learn what sites work best to sell your product or service. Energetic and Informative speaker, James "Zen" Douglas will discuss popular as well as up and coming websites that might increase your bottom line. 10/19, TH, 5:30-7:30 p.m. -Fee Waived -Douglas-Mitchell 828.766.1295

#### Forecasting Income in a Seasonal Market (3 Hours)

The Avery-Mitchell-Yancey County market is considered a 'travel and tourism' dominated market. The population varies greatly from summer to winter. In this class, we will explore data sources that are available to assist a business owner to predict sales and income from season to season. This seminar will also show you how to use this information to plan your business year. 10/24, T, 5:30-8:30 p.m. -Fee Waived -Branch-Yancey

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New Heights on U.S. News & World Report

By Nina Mastandrea  
Avery County

BANNER ELK, N.C. —In an increase from last year's No. 23 spot, Lees-McRae College landed at No. 19 as best regional college in the South in addition to a spot on the "Best Value School" list in the newest evaluation released by U.S. News & World Report.

U.S. News assessed more than 1,800 institutions, and considered numerous factors such as student population, graduation and retention rates, reputation, student selectivity, faculty and financial resources and percentage of graduates who give back as alumni.

As for the Best Value ranking, the "calculation took into account a school's academic quality, as indicated by its 2018 U.S. News Best Colleges ranking, and the 2016-2017 net cost of attendance for a student who received the average level of need-based financial aid," according to the U.S. News & World Report website. "The higher the quality of the program and the lower the cost, the better the deal." "Only schools ranked in or near the top half of their categories are included, because U.S. News considers the most significant values to be among colleges that are above average academically," added the U.S. News website.

U.S. News & World Report, an online resource for up-to-date rankings and advice on subjects including education, health, money, travel and more, releases its annual rankings to highlight the most cutting-edge programming.

The four-place bump in ranking can be attributed in part to improvements in retention and graduation rates, as well as increased peer recognition during the previous academic year.

"Lees-McRae is an institution with a commitment to continued improvement," said Lees-McRae President Barry Buxton.

Nestled in the Blue Ridge Mountains of western North Carolina, Lees-McRae College is a private, four-year college offering diverse baccalaureate degrees, strong athletic programs and outstanding faculty. Field-specific career preparation and hands-on learning enhance the broad core curriculum. For more information, please visit [www.lmc.edu](http://www.lmc.edu) or call 828.898.5241.



Nina Mastandrea is the content manager of Lees-McRae College

WNC Nonprofit Pathways Workshop Focuses on Effective Fundraising

By Susan Larson  
Mitchell and Yancey County



Nonprofit organizations in Yancey, Mitchell and Avery counties are invited to a lunch and learn session on Friday, October 20, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Yancey County Public Library. Nonprofit consultant Beth Trigg will lead the workshop "Alternatives to Special Events: Effective Fundraising Strategies." The discussion will focus on the annual campaign and fundraising from individual donors as efficient alternatives to events.

Many nonprofit organizations use special events to raise money. But do they work? Nonprofit staff and volunteers sometimes have a love-hate relationship with events. They value the visibility and outreach benefits of events but are frustrated by the time and energy that is required to organize one that is successful and the stress that often accompanies event planning. This workshop will explore some key questions about events as part of an organization's fundraising plan. Topics will include how small organizations can be most efficient and effective with fundraising and what fundraising strategies have the highest return on investment.

Beth Trigg has worked at every level of nonprofit organizations: as a staff member, as a board member, as a volunteer, and as a consultant—with organizations from the smallest, most grassroots level up to the scale of larger international organizations.

This event is the first in a series of 2017-18 Lunch and Learn Workshops sponsored by WNC Nonprofit Pathways especially for the Avery, Mitchell and Yancey County region. Please email [sjanelarson@gmail.com](mailto:sjanelarson@gmail.com) or call Susan Larson at 828-765-2652 to pre-register and have the link sent. The deadline to register is October 16. There is a nominal fee for Each Lunch and Learn session with lunch included in the fee. WNC Nonprofit Pathways makes high quality, capacity building support available at low or no cost to nonprofits across the mountain region, thanks to generous collaborative funding from a group of foundations.



Beth Trigg

Susan Larson coordinates programs of WNC Nonprofit Pathways in Avery, Mitchell and Yancey counties. She lives in Mitchell County with her husband, retired physician David Larson.

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### Bowman 8th- Graders

### Study History

By Cindy Ollis  
Mitchell County



Upon studying the Battle of King's Mountain in social studies class, 8th- graders at Bowman Middle School share their views why it is important to study, commemorate and remember the army of citizen soldiers that changed the course of history. After five-and-half years of fighting in the Revolutionary War, a group of citizen soldiers, patriot militia took the threat from Major Patrick Ferguson he would "hang their leaders, and kill their families and destroy their homes with fire and with sword." Their decision to take the fight to Ferguson was the beginning of a march known as the "overmountain men march" that would prove to be the turning point of the war according to many historians. Even though they were simple country people their strong determination and allegiance to family and friend, proved to be enough to defeat the likes of Ferguson and his 1,100 loyalists on top of King's Mountain in 1780. History like all things, stories, heritage, beliefs dies if it is not retold, passed on and remembered. A battle fought and won by a group of "backwater men", that changed the entire war is too important to be left in the dust and forgotten. Bowman 8th-graders visited the Mineral Museum grounds which was a menagerie of reenactors depicting the life and times of the brave overmountain men and women who started a march from the Watauga Settlement. They crossed our very own mountains and made a difference through their sheer determination to gain their freedom. Demonstrations of 1780 life proved to be enlightening and educational.



Cynthia Ollis is an 8th Grade teacher at Bowman Middle School.

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Home in Ledger for New Partner Family

By Robin Warden  
Mitchell County

"We want to have a better chance at life and raising our son, Waylon, in a safe and warm place we can all proudly call home. We have both dreamed and talked about owning our own home, yet it seemed out of reach and almost impossible," shares Jessica Hoyle and Joey Stout, who are Mitchell-Yancey Habitat for Humanity's newest partner family.

In early spring, while working as a waitress in Spruce Pine, Jessica was serving one of her regular customers, Bill Smith. His friend, Dr. Marvin Walker, sat with him and Jessica noticed his Habitat for Humanity T-shirt. Unbeknownst to Jessica, Walker has served our local Habitat as a board member, volunteer, and member of the Family Selection Committee for our affiliate homes for many years.

Jessica tearfully explains, "I couldn't stop bombarding him with questions about how to go about being selected for a Habitat home. He encouraged me to apply and helped me to realize that I was the kind of hard working person that Habitat was seeking. So, I applied in April and by June we were informed we were selected. It is finally time for us to move on and now dream about waking up in the morning in a new, warm home of our own."

Jessica and Joey's life stories are a testimony to their resilience and strong faith that they could overcome the emotional and financial difficulties of their younger years. Joey left his home in Roan Mountain when he was 14 years old. He became homeless and supported himself doing farm work and construction, while sometimes living in his station wagon for long periods of time. His fate began to change at age 19 when he went to work for Tom Littleton, owner of Spruce Pine Batch. Tom and his family took him in and helped to get him back on his feet. Joey worked at Spruce Pine Batch as an Assistant Supervisor of Production for 12 years. Over those years, he began to think more seriously about the future, having a family and owning a home.

Jessica grew up in Plumtree Creek in Avery County with her mother and four siblings. "We grew up dirt poor," she reports. "We had a roof over our head, but not a very nice one. And we lived in a small trailer on a dirt road. Our loving mom was our rock and worked seven days a week with never anything to show for it." Jessica always aspired to go to college; however, she had no emotional or financial support from her family. She paid for school with a small scholarship and student loans. She graduated from Warren Wilson College in Swannanoa, NC with a BA in Elementary Education. As a young teacher, she felt very challenged by large class sizes and discouraged about being a good teacher and paying off her education loans.

Although Jessie and Joey had been friends since middle school, they rekindled their friendship in 2011, began to date, and became engaged. They shared a similar passion of home ownership and refocused their mutual life goals to save money, buy a home, and have a family. Joey had a good job, with a 401K, health insurance, a savings account and was making a very livable wage. In early May of 2011, during a business downturn, Joey was laid off from his job. A week later, he suffered a brain aneurysm. "My medical condition changed everything and our dreams seemed to go out the window," recalls Joey. During an 11-day stay in the Mission Neuro Head Trauma ICU in Asheville, he suffered a second brain aneurysm. Joey was in recovery and unable to work for the next five years. "I call myself a working miracle to have survived these incidents and to have been able to find a path to prosper again," reflects Joey.

Their son, Waylon, was born on December 14, 2012. "Since that time, I have been in charge of our home and the childcare doing all the cooking, shopping, cleaning and yard work. I know how difficult housework can be. Although, I wanted badly to go back to work over those years, safety issues in the workplace were a concern," reports Joey. In 2016, Joey was cleared by his neurologist to go back to work part-time and is now providing general support with production, maintenance and construction at Spruce Pine Batch. He speaks highly of Tom Littleton and General Manager, Brenda Wilson, for the generous and caring support they have provided for him to return to work.

Jessica has been supporting the family during Joey's recovery by working six days a week, sometimes two jobs a day and on weekends in the retail and food industries. She shares, "I know now that I have to do whatever it takes to keep my jobs. However, some day I want a job where I can work with children and use my education and skills to promote early literacy. I feel like I was meant to do more with my life and I want to find that path."

The family currently lives in a very small 150-year-old cabin owed by Frank and Lillian Forbes, where Joey has resided for many years. Joey feels the Forbes have treated him and his family like his own and provided an affordable and safe place to raise Waylon. However, their son has allergies and asthma. And since Joey also struggles with COPD, they need a larger living space and healthier environment where these medical conditions can be more easily addressed.

They reveal, "We always tried to maintain our credit rating and pay our bills because we know someday we want to buy a house. We just don't qualify for a mortgage and can't find a decently maintained place with affordable rent, in a safe location, and a place for Waylon to play. Our new Habitat house will help us all feel gratitude



Hoyle, Stout family



Mitchell County Habitat Community Development Advisory Council  
Mitchell-Yancey Habitat for Humanity board members and community representatives met on September 13th in Spruce Pine to establish the Mitchell County Community Development Advisory Council. Habitat is scheduled to build two new homes in Mitchell County over the next year. The Council will help the affiliate find better ways to inform and involve community members in the Habitat mission in Mitchell County. Members include: (left-right upper row) Brandon Roberts, Robin Warden, Gary Ray, Gary Renfro, Jim Erlandson, Scott Reece (lower row) Cindy Sexton, Libby Phillips, Susan Larson, Bill Summerlin  
Not pictures here: Darla Harding and Steve Bruton

and pride and help us to change our lives. We are thankful to the Lord for this opportunity to make a good home.

The board and staff of Mitchell-Yancey Habitat for Humanity welcome this fine new partner family. Their site in Ledger is currently being prepared for building, and construction will begin this fall. They will work alongside Habitat volunteer crews and local contractors to build their three-bedroom home, and the family will receive a no-interest 25-year mortgage. Jessica and Joey will be required to pay a monthly mortgage, land taxes, and insurance. Their home will be the 24th home built by Mitchell-Yancey Habitat for Humanity since 1992, providing safe and affordable housing for 28 deserving families since that time.

Mitchell-Yancey Habitat for Humanity is seeking volunteers to help build their family home. Are you interested in sharing your time and talents to help Jessica, Joey, and Waylon make the dream of owning their home a reality?

Contact: Steve Bruton,  
M-Y Habitat for Humanity Volunteer Coordinator  
407-864-0699  
email: stevehabitatvc1@yahoo.com

Robin Warden is the Board Vice-President and Development Chairperson of Mitchell-Yancey Habitat for Humanity.

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# PAYBACK

WHEN REVENGE TURNS TO RUIN



## Avery County

### Avery County Chamber

October 7, Leaf Lookers Hay Ride, Beech Mountain Town Hall  
October 14, Old Fashion Apple Butter Cooking, Old Hampton Store and Tavern, Linville  
October 14-15, Oktoberfest, Sugar Mountain Resort  
October 21-22, 40th Annual Woolly Worm Festival, Historic BE School, Banner Elk  
October 21, Valle Country Fair, Valle Crucis  
October 28, Beary Scary Halloween, Grandfather Mountain

## Burke County

### Burke County Chamber

22nd Annual Golf Classic-October 12, 2017, 11:30 AM to 7:00 PM EDT  
Mimosa Hills Golf & Country Club—611 Golf Course Rd, Morganton, NC 28655 sponsored by Carolinas Health Care System.  
Save the Date!  
November 16, 2017  
Foothills Higher Education Center  
What is your favorite Olympic Sport or Team?  
This year's theme is World Games and can be any team or sport.  
Past, Present or Future!  
The Chamber will be Sport Sailing, so jump on board with your best theme and see if you can win the Gold, Silver or Bronze Medal.

### Catawba River Baptist Association - Good Samaritan Clinic East

The Good Samaritan Clinic East will host an Open House/Grand Opening on October 14, 2017 from 11:00am-2:00pm. The Clinic is located at Oakridge Baptist Church, 7449 Oakridge Church Road Connelly Springs NC, 28612. There will be a FREE hotdog lunch, FREE blood pressure checks, and tours given. This will be a time for prospective new patients to register. The clinic serves those in the Eastern part of Burke County above the age of 18 who currently do not have insurance coverage, Medicare or Medicaid, and do not have financial resources for proper medical care. If you have any questions about this event or the clinic, please call 828-522-1119.

**Great Hope Seventh-Day Adventist Church Of Valdese** - will be celebrating their one-year anniversary with a special Sabbath of worship and praise on Saturday, October 21. The public is invited. Sabbath School begins at 10:00 am; Pastor Stanley Knight, Youth Director for Carolina Conference, will be the worship service speaker at 11:30. A vegetarian buffet will be served, followed by a concert with George and Nancy Suelzle at 1:30 pm. Address is 2907-D US Hwy 70, Drexel. Questions? 828-448-1660.

COOKING FOR HEALTH AND JOY is a whole food, plant-based cooking class for those interested in being healthy. This goes for 3 continuous Thursdays, beginning October 12 through October 26, 6:00 pm. This will be held upstairs in the Old Rock School in Valdese. There will be food demonstrations, samples, door prizes, handouts—all for \$15 for the three classes. Reserve your seat today by calling Sharryn at 828-334-0084. This is provided by your friends of the Great Hope Seventh-day Adventist Church of Valdese.

**Morganton Seventh-day Adventist-Burke County** - Sharing Him - "If it's in the Bible...I believe it!" Evangelism Meetings will begin October 15th., through November 1st., every evening (except for Tuesdays and Thursdays) at 7:00 p.m., at the Morganton Seventh-day Adventist Church, 2187 Jamestown Road, Morganton, N.C.

God's Closet - Morganton is seeking gently used or new children's clothing, shoes, and bedding (ages birth to teen) for our next FREE shopping event. Items may be dropped off anytime under our covered drive-through at the Morganton Seventh-day Adventist Church, 2187 Jamestown Road, Morganton, N.C. Please label box / bag with "God's Closet." All donations are greatly appreciated! For more information, please contact Janet at 828-244-3876. Like us on Facebook @ GodsClosetMorganton

**Aglow International Hickory Lighthouse** - Hickory Lighthouse meetings are the second Saturday of each month.

## McDowell County

Grace Community Church--New Prayer Line Launches in Marion, North Carolina - James 5:16 says "The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective." A. J. Gordon said, "You can do more than pray after you have prayed, but you cannot do more than pray until you have prayed." Churches in McDowell County believe God's Word and agree with A. J. Gordon. That's why they have launched 659-PRAY, a prayer line where people can call anytime, leave a message and know that churches in McDowell County will be praying for them. Here's how it works. The prayer line (659-PRAY) is housed at Freedom Life Ministries (freedomlifeministries.org). Each day prayer requests will be sent to 25 partnering churches in McDowell County who will immediately send those requests to prayer warriors in their churches who will pray for them. The effect is knowing that your prayer request is covered daily by hundreds of people across McDowell County. 659-PRAY will begin on September 1. Between now and then, please ask your pastor if your church is involved. If not, encourage your leaders to reach out and get on board. For more information, please call Robin at (828) 724-9599. - Contact: Chris Allison Cell Phone: 828-559-7312 E-Mail: chris@rocketsled-

design.com.

**Historic Marion Tailgate Market** is open on Tuesday from 3 to 6 pm and Saturday from 9 am to 12 pm in downtown Marion under the Tailgate Market shelter.

**New HOPE of McDowell (Marion)** - New HOPE of McDowell is seeking a full-time Associate Director - Shelter Manager. New HOPE of McDowell is a non-profit domestic violence and sexual assault agency located in McDowell County, NC. This position includes benefits such as employee health insurance and paid vacation, personal, and sick time. The primary purpose of this position is to provide direct client services and advocacy to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault and their children as well assisting with carrying out the strategic goals and objectives of the organization, providing direct leadership and supervision to all Client Services Advocates, and operating under the direction and expectations of the Executive Director/Court Advocate and Board of Directors.

**First Baptist Church, Old Fort** will be having a Community Health and Wellness Fair on Saturday, October 28, 2017 from 9 AM to 2 PM. The event is free to all. The Red Cross blood mobile will be taking donations and Fred's Pharmacy will be offering flu shots, which are free with most insurance carriers, or if no insurance, \$30. For children of all ages we will have the Old Fort Fire Department truck and firemen, Route 70 Cruisers with their classic cars and a children's tent with other activities.

The McDowell EMS will be checking blood pressure, heart rate, O2 Stats & Sugar levels. A Senior Center PT will be doing Fall Assessment and the YMCA will be sharing fitness opportunities and their offered programs.

Other organizations participating will be McDowell Health Depart WIC (Women, Infants & Children) and Community Care of Western North Carolina.

Additional educational booths will cover a variety of health topics, including allergy management, diabetes management, heart health, oils, skin cancer screening, stress management and women's health.

We will not be offering full food service, but will have a variety of nutritional samples, with the recipe and nutrition facts for each.

Mark your calendar and plan to come join us. For additional information, please contact Cathy Moore, 281-798-9575.

**Old Fort Presbyterian** at 144 Main Street, has a free community dinner and musical entertainment every fourth Saturday from January through October. Meal is from 5:30-6:30 And music is 6:30-7:30.

## Mitchell County

**All Saints of America Orthodox** - On Saturdays beginning in June, All Saints of America Orthodox Mission will be having Divine Liturgy at the meeting hall located at Trinity Episcopal Church, 15 Hemlock Ave, Spruce Pine, NC 28777. The Liturgy will be served weekly on Saturdays at 11:00 AM. Fr. Steven Webb, the priest appointed to serve the new mission, will be officiating. While All Saints of America Orthodox Mission is a part of the Russian Orthodox Church, all services are performed in the English language. Afterwards, all are invited to a picnic at 1064 Deer Park Lake Rd. Spruce Pine, NC.

**Bear Creek Baptist Church-Ledger** The Hinson Girls will be performing at Bear Creek for the 5th Sunday night singing on Oct 29th at 6:00pm

### Celebrate Recovery

This is a Christ and Biblical Based Program, giving hope and help for men, women and families suffering from addiction. Any questions contact Josh Wise@ 385-0061

There will be a meeting every Thursday night with someone there to talk to men, women, and their families

**Buck Stove** is Sponsoring a Blue Ridge Blue Grass Festival on Oct 21, 1:00pm- until. at 200 Ethan Allen Dr. in Spruce Pine. It will be hosted by Darin and Brooke Aldridge. Brooke was raised in Avery County. Her love for Jesus and the Blue Ridge Mountains run deep. We are so excited to announce that this years IBMA female Vocalist Nominee will be hosting our 1-day festival. Other performances will include David Holt and others. There will be vendors, artisans, food, fun and Bucks Tiny House Tours.

\$20.00 Advance tickets and \$25 at the door. 12 and under will be free. For more info call 828-765-6144.

**Calvary Chapel Asheville** - Spruce Pine Calvary Chapel Church in Asheville is sponsoring a home fellowship and Bible Study in Spruce Pine. The fellowship is held on Thursday evenings at 7:00pm at 79 Sean Dr. (Estatoe area—off Brushy Creek Rd). Call John Jackson 760-793-3799 for information and directions. And bring your Bible.

**Cane Creek Community Club** will be having a Barbecue Fund Raiser on October 7, 2017 from 11:00am to whenever the food runs out. It is \$7.00 per plate. It is to benefit the building of the road into the Cane Creek Cemetery. Donations would also be appreciated. They may be sent to Hazen Ledford at 294 Hazen Ledford Rd., Bakersville, NC 28705

**Grassy Creek Baptist Church** Karen Peck and New River will be at Grassy Creek Baptist Church on Saturday, October 14th at 6:00pm. Admission is free; a love offering will be taken. Doors will open at 5:15. For more information call the church office at 765-4620. Grassy Creek Baptist is located on Hwy 226 south



of Spruce Pine across from Parkway Fire Department.

**Support Group For Caregivers Of Those With Memory Loss** to hold meetings the first Friday of each month from 1-3PM

Care & Share, a newly-formed support group for caregivers of loved ones who have memory loss, will hold monthly meetings at the offices of Hospice & Palliative Care of the Blue Ridge, 236 Hospital Dr. in Spruce Pine, from 1:00 P.M. to 3:00 P.M. High Country Caregiver Foundation welcomes and encourages all caregivers to attend.

Families dealing with a loved one with memory loss can quickly become exhausted, traumatized, and isolated, and this new group intends to provide support, friendship, education, information and referrals for caregivers. Monthly meetings held on the first Friday of each month will offer refreshments and fellowship. There will be opportunities for caregivers to tell their stories, learn useful tips, trade information, and give and gain support to others in the same situation.

For further information about the group and the meeting please contact Suzanne Russell at (714) 614-5867 or Janet Ouzts at [jnutouzs@yahoo.com](mailto:jnutouzs@yahoo.com).

**Mitchell County Chamber** - Little Switzerland Fall Arts & Crafts Market Save The Date for the Artisan League of Little Switzerland Fall Arts & Crafts Market. We hope to see you at our 5th Annual Fall Market, October 13th & 14th, featuring many of our returning league members and guest artists including sculptress Laura Kaplan and candle maker extraordinaire Seanne Harmon. It should be peak fall weekend here in our beautiful mountains and we look forward to sharing the natural and Artisan made works with everyone!

**11th Annual Spruce Pine Potters Market**

The 11th Annual Spruce Pine Potters Market will be held October 14 and 15 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day in the Cross Street Building, 31 Cross Street, Spruce Pine, North Carolina. The show and sale includes thirty-two regional artists: Stanley Mace Andersen, William Baker, Barking Spider Pottery, Pam Brewer, John Britt, Cynthia Bringle, Melisa Cadell, Cristina Cordova, Claudia Dunaway, Susan Feagin, Terry Gess, Becky Gray, Michael Hunt and Naomi Dalglish, Shawn Ireland, Lisa Joerling, Nicholas Joerling, Michael Kline, Suze Lindsay, Shauna Lyons, Jeannine Marchand, Courtney Martin, Kent McLaughlin, Teresa Pietsch, David Ross, Michael Rutkowski, Ken Sedberry, Ron Slagle, Gertrude Graham Smith, Liz Zlot Summerfield, Valerie Schnauffer and Joy Tanner. Admission to the Market is free, (\*\*but visitors are encouraged to purchase raffle tickets for work donated by four of the artists. This year, those artists are Kent McLaughlin, Jeannine Marchand, David Ross and Ken Sedberry. A portion of the raffle proceeds will benefit Safe Place, a non-profit organization working for the prevention of domestic and sexual violence). Food will be available for purchase on site.

**Upcoming Penland Gallery Showcases**

Iron Designs | Marc Maiorana

October 6- November 12

Reception: Sunday, October 7, 4:30-6:30

John and Robyn Horn Gallery

Focus Gallery

Conversation | What Remains

Rachel Meginnis

October 3- November 19

Reception: Saturday, October 7, 4:30 to 6:30 pm

This could be your lucky fall—Penland still has a handful of concentration scholarships for workshops in clay, glass, metals, photography, and wood! Scholarships are being awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.

**Women Seeking God Freedom Retreat** "Inviting ladies of all ages, to join us for our 5th annual Freedom Retreat at High Pastures Retreat Center in Burnsville, NC on October 6th-7th. Our theme this year is becoming women who "Let Go and Trust God" If you often find yourself trying to take control of people and situations instead of trusting God with them or consumed with fear and worry, this year is for you! We want to become women with deep roots planted by the living water, that don't fear or worry but remain green and fruit bearing even in the seasons of drought as Jeremiah 17:7-8 states.

You will hear testimonies from local women Lacey Cannon, Kim Hobart, Jordan Honeycutt, Olivia Grindstaff and Shelley Grindstaff who are learning to let go and trust God with the people and situations in their lives. Worship will be led by Jordan Anglin. This is a non-denominational event lead by Shelley Grindstaff. She has a heart to see the body of Christ joined together in worship and broken women find the freedom that is only found in Jesus Christ and the Truth of His Word.

It begins at 5:30 on Friday October 6th with dinner at High Pastures followed by worship and speaker from 6:45-9. Saturday, it begins at 8am with breakfast followed by worship and speakers from 9am -2pm with lunch being served at 12. Cost is \$55 for room and 3 meals. Staying is encouraged to have focused time with the Lord, away from distractions but there is option of conference only for \$5 if you cannot stay for whole conference. Meals can be purchased separately as well. Registration and deposit for room and meals are needed by Sept. 25th. Space is limited. Registrations can be picked up and dropped off at Higgins UMC church office in Burnsville or contact Shelley Grindstaff at [sgrindstaff@yanceync.net](mailto:sgrindstaff@yanceync.net) to receive by email or with questions call 284-6846. Also look up Yancey Women Seeking God on Facebook.

Shelley and her husband have been serving together in ministry for 24 years. She has led women's ministry called Mary Ministries for 16 years at the various churches they have served at. They are currently attending The Bridge Church in Spruce Pine. Her husband Steve is also filling in as interim pastor at South ESTATOE Baptist in Burnsville. She works as a nurse in the Yancey Student Health Centers. They have two beautiful teenagers. Caleb, who will be leaving in September to go

on mission with YWAM and Olivia a junior at MHHS who will be speaking with her mom this year.

**Mitchell County Historical Society** - The Mitchell County Historical Society is excited to announce our annual 2017 APPLE BUTTER FESTIVAL on Saturday, October 21, 2017, from 10 to 4 on the Creek Walk in Bakersville, NC!!

As in the past, we will be making our signature Apple Butter on site and presenting it for sale.

Music, food, raffles, home-crafted goods, coffee, cider.... good fun. Our genealogy experts will be on hand to try to answer questions about your family roots here in Mitchell County.

If you have any questions, or would like to become a vendor at our Festival, please call us at 688-4371 or email us at [historicismitchellcounty.org@gmail.com](mailto:historicismitchellcounty.org@gmail.com). (We have attached a vendor application with instructions. You can also pick up an application at our office, located in the Historic Courthouse in Bakersville. Hours: Weds. - Sat., 10 to 4.)

**Red Cross Blood Donation** - The American Red Cross serving Mitchell and Yancey County has volunteer positions open as Blood Donor Ambassadors assisting in the areas of Reception and Hospitality at local blood drives in Spruce Pine and Burnsville. With the need for blood donations increased during the holidays, this is a critical role and meaningful way to serve an urgent need through the Red Cross. Drives are held at the First Baptist Church of Spruce Pine and the Higgins Memorial Methodist Church in Burnsville. Volunteers serving in this role help the Red Cross provide a great blood donation experience for donors - helping to save lives. For more information and to apply go to <http://www.redcross.org/volunteeror> contact Kimberly Brewster, Volunteer Services Specialist supporting the Mitchell and Yancey area blood drives at [kimberly.brewster@redcross.org](mailto:kimberly.brewster@redcross.org) or 828-333-9809.

**Spruce Pine Farmer's Market** - We will have food for any mood!!! Winter squash, tomatoes, cabbage, potatoes, cucumbers, bell peppers, kale, mustard, chard, microgreens, collards, eggs, pork, beef, cookies, ciabatta, scones, brownies, cheese strip. You can also find essential oils to heal and help with what ails you! Come out and see us, Wednesdays 2-5 in the parking lot under the blue tents.

**Tipton Hill Community Foundation (Tipton Hill)** - Country Breakfast, the first Saturday each month, 7:30 - 10:30 am, at the old Methodist Church, across from Jerry's Store. Come join us for homemade sausage, scrambled eggs, gravy, jellies, juice and coffee. Eat in or take-out, all funds support the Tipton Hill Community Foundation.

**Toe River Arts Regional Artist Project Grant Workshops This Month**

The Regional Artist Project Grant (RAPG) deadline is October 13, 2017. Artists seeking to apply are encouraged to attend one of the FREE grant-writing workshops. The first workshop will be held on August 24 at 4pm in the Burnsville Gallery (102 W. Main Street). The second is scheduled for August 29 at the Arts Resource Center in Spruce Pine (2nd floor, 269 Oak Avenue). The workshops will last approximately one hour. Grant requirements will be discussed and any individual grant ideas evaluated. Toe River Arts, in collaboration with Avery County, Buncombe and Madison county arts councils, and the North Carolina Arts Council, a division of the Cultural and Natural Resources Department, provides funding through RAPG for projects (in all arts genre) that enhance an artist's career; the workshops are highly recommended. Registration is required. Please call 828-682-7215.

**Women's Prayer Breakfast:** If you would like to join a group of women who are dedicated to praying, learning about God's will, and fellowshiping, come join us for breakfast at DT's in Spruce Pine. We will be ending by 10:00am. Open to all-for more information call Barbara Harrell at 828-467-3644 or email at [barbarah@brcnews.com](mailto:barbarah@brcnews.com).

## Yancey County

**Calvary Chapel Asheville - Spruce Pine** - Calvary Chapel Church in Asheville is sponsoring a home fellowship and Bible Study in Spruce Pine. The fellowship is held on Thursday evenings at 7:00pm at 79 Sean Dr. (Estatoe area—off Brushy Creek Rd). We are studying the Gospel of John currently. Call John Jackson 760-793-3799 for information and directions. And bring your Bible.

**Sunday School Movie Ministry** - Faith Fellowship Church, Newdale, Beginning: Sundays in October 2017

Location: Faith Fellowship Ch. Newdale

Classroom in new addition-back door

Time: 9:30 am - 10:45 am

Contact: Libby Miller to register or if you need directions (682-3806)

**Yancey County Meals on Wheels (Burnsville)** - Volunteers needed to deliver meals to Yancey County shut-ins, any weekday, 10:30 am - noon. If you would like to volunteer, please call the Yancey County Senior Center at 828-682-6011.

**Parkway Playhouse** - Opening next at Parkway Playhouse is Agatha Christie's The Mousetrap. Also, Parkway Playhouse is looking for new members to serve on our Board of Directors. CUTLINE FOR MOUSETRAP: Detective Ser-

*continued on page 24*



### Legacy

By Marlene Houk  
Burke County



Our legacy may bestow upon us that bulbous nose or sprinkling of freckles from our long-gone relatives. Perhaps that fiery temper and musical ability from great-aunt Annie appears again in four-year-old Peter.

What is your legacy? Legacies can be heirlooms such as a grandmother's wedding ring or a treasured secret recipe handed down such as my great-aunt's peach pie. When his cousin moved to South Africa, my son still acted like him. Quirks and preferences remained the same for my ten-year-old, surprising me with their consistency. He still acted the same as his cousin even though continents separated them, and I knew it was genetic, at least partially. Sometimes the facial expressions of my cousin mirror those of her sister's so much that it's like looking in both of their faces at the same time. The legacy of physical traits bequeathed to each generation come alive in the birthing room as family members comment on the newborn. "Doesn't he have Aunt Susie's toes?" or "Look at that head of hair, just like her brother's."

Ancestors endow this tiny new addition to the clan with multi-hued layers of colorful stories, awe-inspiring courage, and dark tales of caution. Hopefully, the legacy will include breath-taking faith in God that moves mountains and guides us to our own relationship with Christ.

Such was the case for Sarah, Abraham's wife who became a great woman of faith. Her story is found in Genesis, Isaiah, Romans, Hebrews and First Peter. Sarah's direct descent from Adam bequeathed access to her roots and grand stories about the human race, its failures and God's mercy and love in redeeming it. As demonstrated by The Wall Chart of World History (Professor Edward Hull, Dorsett Press, 1988), Abraham and Sarah "talked with" Shem, (Noah's son) for 150 years before Shem died. Shem, "talked with" Methuselah for 98 years, and Methuselah "talked with" Adam for 243 years. Their monumental stories of the depths of human darkness and the shining hope of redemption must have stunned the generations to follow. In a modern parallel, my daughter knew her great-grandmother who was born in the early 1900s who probably knew an elderly relative who was born in the early 1800s. That person may have known someone who had talked with George Washington who died in 1799.

God has designed us to be intrigued and guided by stories, and they are easily passed down to descendants along with cultural and genetic predispositions. Therefore, it is logical to assume that the biblical Sarah had access to her own legacy of Enoch's faith, Noah's faith, and a myriad of other devout men of God. She lived in Ur of the Chaldees, a sophisticated and metropolitan city with a large library where perhaps resided the census and history of her people. In Genesis chapter 10, the "table of nations" details where Shem's ancestors settled after the flood. It is the same Mesopotamian region as Sarah and Abraham! Therefore, it is entirely plausible that she talked with her cousins every day, drinking from a legacy which had the power to grow her own faith.

Psalms 61:5 defines our legacy as Christians today: *For thou, O God, hast heard my vows: thou hast given me the heritage of those that fear thy name.*

We have as our legacy today the ones who identify, whether living or dead, with the God of the Bible and His Son, Jesus, who died for our sins and was resurrected in power. Their magnificent testimonies, their everyday faith, and their consistent walk with God through failures and triumph call us to greater living in Christ. Even if our physical ancestors were godless and evil, our salvation grafts us into this spiritual legacy, and we are strengthened to fulfill His plan. The impact of their faithful lives stirs in us the motivation to live for Him. The substance of their faith is a raft on the seas of life that gives hope for survival and triumph. And the gifts of their worship, their commitment, and their joy in the Lord encourages us to plop our feet solidly down on the stepping stones to our own faith.

I remember Grandma Greene, 93 years old, her red hair long turned white and wound in a bun, reciting Scripture. I'm motivated to push on, despite the battle, because her faith became a living legacy to me!

*Marlene Houk is a regular contributor to Blue Ridge Christian News. Her passion is to delve deeply into the truths of Bible women and to discuss those in Bible Studies called Backstage Pass to Bible Women. She and her husband discover joy, nurture, and challenge in their church. Her contact is marlenehouk@bellsouth.net*



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Matthew 14:16-21

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Evil, the Rapture, Responsibility, and Radiation

By Dr. Mark Creech

Just a few days ago, our country commemorated the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center, and the Pentagon. That morning, September 11, 2001, death, carnage, and mayhem ravaged our country.

Evildoers – that was the very old-fashioned, almost biblical sounding word evoked by President Bush to describe the September 11 mass murders. ‘The evil ones’ was another phrase he used,” writes William J. Bennet in his book, *Why We Fight*. “Not since Ronald Reagan termed the Soviet Union an ‘evil empire,’ and thereby called down upon his own head the indignation of supposedly sophisticated people everywhere... [I]t took George W. Bush, a ‘cowboy’ president like Ronald Reagan, to revive the language of good and evil.”



Whatever happened to good and evil? Evil is often nowadays called good. And good is called evil.

Matters of moral import didn't use to be so fuzzy, added Bennet in his book. “In one form or another, an easy-going relativism, both moral and cultural, is our common wisdom today. But things didn't use to be that way. It used to be that a child in this country was brought up to revere its institutions and values, to identify with its customs and traditions, to take pride in its extraordinary achievements, to venerate its national symbols. What was taught along these lines in the home were reinforced in the community and the schools; what may have been wanting in the home was supplied by the community and the schools, and reinforced by public authority. The superior goodness of the American way of life, of American culture in the broad sense, was the spoken and the unspoken message of this ongoing instruction in citizenship.” Obviously, this is no more.

C.S. Lewis once said, “When a man is getting better, he understands more clearly the evil that is still left in him. When a man is getting worse, he understands his own badness less and less.” How spot-on. And I suggest what is true for the individual is also the case for a culture. Americans seem to understand less and less the seriousness of our character deficit.

Today evil is pervasive and “evildoers” abound in our country. Violent crime is on the rise in many of the nation's largest cities. Approximately a million lives are mercilessly ripped to pieces by the abortionist's knife every year. Human sexuality is now twisted and perverted on numerous levels. Religion, in general, is marginalized, ousted from the public arena, while Christianity is assailed.

The news media has become a band of liars and talebearers. Corruption in government is commonplace. So much is this the case, Americans now expect their public officials to deceive and manipulate.

The plight of the poor is real. However, the people claiming to help them most often leverage their poverty for their own political gain and tout policies which make them slaves of the state.

Alcohol and drug abuse are a national calamity. There is hardly a family anywhere that hasn't been touched by one or the other.

The government now fleeces its own citizens to sustain itself with proceeds from gambling.

This is only to point out a few faces of evil. Christians already know about these things. Many times when I discuss our cultural maladies with fellow believers, whether in a personal conversation or in a group setting, the common response is that they fully agree morality is in a free-fall and our nation is in real trouble.

But then they almost always add to their expressions of agreement something like this, “Well, you know the Bible said it would get this way before the return of Christ.”

I'm not interested in getting into a debate on eschatology. Still, let me tell you what does bother me. I find it troubling so few ask, “Well, what should we do about it?” It seems too many would prefer being raptured out of responsibility, rather than engaging society to make a difference.

Christians possess the one answer that can turn back the tide of evil-doing. I think the motto of the Christian Action League, the organization I represent in North Carolina, sums it up well. It reads, “The only lasting cure for evil and injustice is Christian action.”

In 1961, a K-19 Soviet Nuclear Submarine was conducting a training exercise in the North Atlantic, when a pipe carrying coolant to its nuclear reactor burst. In the reactor room, the temperature quickly soared to 140 degrees, and the radiation level seriously mounted. The reactor room had to be cooled or it would rupture and poison the sea with toxic radiation.

The captain of the ship called for volunteers to go into the perilous room and weld a new cooling system. Knowing the dangers involved, the men worked in three-man shifts for five to ten minutes, wearing only raincoats and gas masks for protection. They eventually succeeded in repairing the cooling pipe and preventing the Sub from exploding.

Afterward, the men who had gone into the reactor room started profusely vomiting. They experienced skin reddening and swelling. Dots of blood appeared on their foreheads and scalps. Within a couple of hours, their appearance wasn't even recognizable. In just a few days, eight of them died a horrendous death. After two years, fourteen more of them died from the effects of radiation.

Evil is like radiation. If the breach allowing it is not mended, it spreads and the results can be catastrophic.

The Captain of the Ship of Zion calls for volunteers – volunteers willing to bear



a Cross for righteousness sake – volunteers willing to suffer – volunteers even willing to die to address societal evils.

Jesus is indeed coming again. Perhaps he will come soon, but just exactly when no one knows. It could be decades from now – another century or more. In the meantime, evil is spreading and a moral nuclear holocaust seems imminent if we are unwilling to resist it at the cost of sacrifice.

What kind of life will be left for our posterity if Jesus tarries and the evils of our day are permitted to flourish?

Don't be so heavenly minded that you're no earthly good.

There's work to be done, short and long range, and the Savior should catch us doing it when he arrives.

Reverend Dr. Mark Creech is Executive Director of the NC Christian Action League. You may contact him at [rev.markcreech@christianactionleague.org](mailto:rev.markcreech@christianactionleague.org) or 919-787-0606

Put ye in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe: come, get you down; for the press is full, the fats overflow; for their wickedness is great. Joel 3:13



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# YOUR GOVERNMENT PAGES

## US House of Representatives NC District 11



Congressman  
Mark Meadows  
202-225-6401  
www.meadows.house.gov

### Loving One Another

I'm sure you have seen pictures of the devastation caused by Hurricane Harvey and Hurricane Irma, and many of you probably have family and loved ones who have lost their homes, power, and communities to these storms. As Hurricane Maria brings destruction to Puerto Rico and threatens the Northeast, we should be sure to keep all the communities that have faced hurricane destruction this summer in our thoughts and prayers.

While we here in Congress have debated how to responsibly provide relief, I have been blown away by the generosity of many of you in Western North Carolina. I've heard stories of families opening their homes to those who needed shelter, churches sending food and clean drinking water to the communities damaged by storms, and people donating their hard-earned money to care for one another. Just the other day, I was told that Steve Odom, who owns Odom Trucking Company in Robbinsville, sent multiple trucks filled with food and water to help with the relief efforts in South Florida.

In the Book of John, Jesus tells us to love one another as He has first loved us. Though we as a nation are facing trying times, we have seen people from all over our nation unite to show their love for one another as they help rebuild communities in Texas and Florida. It is this spirit of love that reminds us of God's special love for each of us, and it is this spirit of love that tells of God's great work on the Cross.

As we hear more stories of your generosity over the coming days, we should each remember that it is this spirit of love that makes our Nation so great. Though we may be facing divisions, our living out of Christ's love for us can unite our country, heal our wounds, and restore our communities.

## NC Senate District 47



Sen. Ralph Hise  
Ralph.Hise@ncleg.net  
919-733-3460

An alarming and growing epidemic in our country of opioid addiction has taken a significant toll on the citizens of our state. The negative impact of this epidemic affects not only those suffering from addiction, but extends exponentially. Our law enforcement, court system, departments of social services, as well as employers who need an able workforce, all struggle to deal with the effects of an increasing number of opioid-addicted citizens.

In an effort to combat this pervasive problem, I have supported significantly increased funding, over \$3 million over the last two years, to upgrade and improve the Controlled Substance Reporting System (CSRS). This statewide reporting system was established by North Carolina law to improve the state's ability to identify people who abuse and misuse prescription drugs classified as Schedule II-V controlled substances. It also assists clinicians in identifying, and referring for treatment, patients who misuse controlled substances.

Additionally, I supported an appropriation of \$4 million to Mission Health for additional beds for inpatient crisis, including substance abuse.

Other steps include \$10 million for opioid and substance abuse treatment state-wide, an opioid prevention pilot, a quick response team to address the needs of opiate and heroin overdose victims, and the enactment of House Bill 243 - Strengthen Opioid Misuse Prevention (STOP) Act, which was signed into law on June 29. Provisions of the STOP Act include the following:

- Extends the state-wide standing order for practitioners to prescribe opioid antagonists to any governmental or non-governmental agency.
- Requires physician assistants or nurse practitioners treating patients in pain clinics to consult with their supervising physician before prescribing opioids if a patient's use of the opioid will exceed 30 days.
- Limits opioid prescriptions to a five-day supply for acute pain relief, and a seven-day supply for post-surgical pain relief.
- Requires hospice and palliative care providers who prescribe opioids for in-home treatment to provide written and oral information to patients and their families regarding proper disposal of opioids.
- Requires dispensers to report information required by statute to the CSRS database no later than the close of the next business day after the prescription is delivered, and imposes a civil penalty on dispensers for failing to report the required information within a reasonable time.
- Requires practitioners to review a patient's preceding 12-month history in the CSRS database prior to initially prescribing an opioid, and again every three months afterward that the opioid remains part of the patient's medical care.

Opioid addiction is a senseless tragedy that wastes human lives and potential. It is a problem that requires attention on many fronts and I will continue to focus on solutions.

As always, please share your thoughts with me on issues related to state government by emailing me at [ralph.hise@ncleg.net](mailto:ralph.hise@ncleg.net) or calling me at 919-733-3460.



This week, I was proud to make positive steps forward in one of my career-long goals here in Congress: helping Americans save more to achieve financial independence and reach the American Dream. Along with Senators Bob Casey (D-PA) and Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), I reintroduced the Boost Saving for College Act (S. 1790). This bill would help families save more money tax-free in their 529 college savings plans so that they can financially prepare for the cost of a college education rather than rely so heavily on student loans. As many of you know, 529 accounts are a fantastic savings tool.

Our legislation would provide a tax credit to low- and middle-income families who might not otherwise save for college, incentivize employers to put money into their employees' 529 accounts, and allow parents to rollover any unused funds in their kids' 529s into their retirement account. Getting an education is one of the surest paths to success, and this bill gives families more options to do just that.

I've long advocated for making our education system more affordable. For example, in 2013, Senator Angus King (I-ME) and I authored the Bipartisan Student Loan Certainty Act, a law that has stabilized and lowered student loan interest rates and saved Americans billions of dollars. I also fought hard in 2015 to secure an additional \$24 million in annual federal education funding for North Carolina's underprivileged students.

Today, graduating from a two-year institution can cost more than \$19,000, and nearly \$100,000 for a four-year institution. This is simply unsustainable, and I will continue to work to bring relief to the millions of North Carolinians and Americans who desperately need it. The American Council on Education, the North Carolina State Education Assistance Authority, and 14 other higher education associations have endorsed the Boost Saving for College Act. This is a great step towards reining in higher education costs, but we're not done yet.

# GOD BLESS AMERICA



## NC House District 118

### Speaker makes interim appointments

Over the past couple weeks, House Speaker Tim Moore (R—Cleveland) made appointments to various committees that will meet during the legislative interim.

He appointed me to the House Select Committee on Strategic Transportation Planning and Long-Term Funding Solutions. The committee will hold its first meeting on October 2.

For constituents who have contacted me about transportation issues, you know I spend a great deal of my time and energy on improving transportation in Western North Carolina. Since taking office, my work on transportation has included getting permits for truckers, helping move forward stalled bridge construction, adding turn lanes, getting neighborhood roads paved and working on bigger picture issues — just to name a few.

If you have an issue with transportation, please let me know. I am always happy to help.

I will provide updates about committee work as the committee process moves forward.



Rep. Michele D. Presnell  
Michele.Presnell@ncleg.net  
919-733-5732

## NC House District 86



Rep. Hugh Blackwell  
919-733-5805

Hugh.Blackwell@ncleg.net

### Special Needs Funding

For the first time in what is over 30 years, the State Legislature decided to tackle the spending deficit for children with disabilities in the public school system. Though we did not fund the increase at as high an amount as I had advocated, we made a first step in the right direction. In the state's new budget, we included approximately \$6 million in new funding to increase the number of fully-funded special needs children. Again, while this is a positive movement, it is not, in my opinion, where we need to be. However, the additional funding will help and I will be continuing my efforts to at least incrementally increase funding with an ultimate goal of full funding for all such children. In addition, I have been asked to serve on The Council of Educational Services for Exceptional Children State Advisory Council. The council studies and advises the State Board of Education on the unmet needs of special education students and how to best address those areas. That position will hopefully help me to better argue the need.

During the interim, I have also been appointed by the Speaker to serve on the legislative Joint Taskforce that will study how we allocate dollars to local school systems. That position, too, will, I hope, also enable us to urge a new method of funding that will fully recognize the needs of our special student populations with Individual Education Plans.

## Dave Ramsey-Extra

### The 401(k) Option You Should Never Take

By Chris Hogan

There's a trend among 401(k) participants that keeps me up at night. I hesitate to mention it because if you don't know about it, that's one less person who's losing money. Chances are you've heard about it, though. It's the 401(k) loan.

There. I said it. You know about it. Now, let me tell you why it's such a bad idea.



In theory, taking out money from your 401(k) sounds like a great option. Rather than the hassle of going through a bank, you can take money from your investment account as a short-term loan. The interest you pay on that loan goes

back into your investment account, so you're not really losing any money, right? Wrong. And I can prove it.

Let's say you take out \$25,000 from your 401(k) for a down payment on a house. After all, you'd rather pay interest to yourself than the bank. You have five years to pay off that \$25,000 — \$5,000 a year plus interest — so you'd pay \$425 a month (or more).

What would happen if you left that \$25,000 alone for five years instead of using it for the house? Your balance would be \$40,000 and change, assuming a 10 percent rate of return. By taking it out, though, you lost \$15,000. That's \$15,000 you can never get back because the growth was due to compound interest.

And the story doesn't end there. You'll spend the next five years digging yourself out of that hole to get back to your original 401(k) balance — instead of using that time to increase it even more.

Let's say your original 401(k) balance was \$50,000. If you take out that loan, you'll spend five years getting that 401(k) fund back to its original amount. However, if you spent those years adding \$425 a month to that \$50,000, you'd be nearing \$115,000 in the end. Which balance would you rather have after five years — \$50,000 or \$115,000? I thought so.

In my years as a financial coach, I've talked to thousands of people about their money. The biggest problem I see is debt. Whether it's student loans, credit cards, or a 401(k) loan (which is debt, people!), being in the red keeps people from reaching their financial goals. And the only way to stem the tide of debt that has flooded our nation is to change the cultural and individual mind-set surrounding finances.

Americans need to understand that a 401(k) loan isn't the solution to their financial woes. That only puts a person deeper into the quicksand of debt. It's time that we as a people (and our government) decide to take fiscal responsibility. It's time that we stop blaming everyone else for our financial struggles, roll up our sleeves, and get to work to change our situation.

What does that mean?

We need a good dose of our grandparents' approach to money. They lived on less than they earned. They didn't take out loans every time they wanted to make a large purchase. They saved up the money until they had enough to buy it —

whether it was a car or a washing machine. They understood the value of hard work and took on extra jobs when finances got tight. And they definitely didn't buy things they didn't need to impress the neighbors. That's a relatively new phenomenon—and a dangerous mind-set to have.

The total household debt in the United States is roughly \$12.8 trillion. Of that, credit card debt accounts for \$1 trillion. How can we as a nation expect to prosper if we live beyond our means and hope that someday we'll magically turn our finances around?

I understand that life happens and some problems cost money to fix. But rather than getting a 401(k) loan to pay for life's mishaps, why not prepare in advance and put money aside? Then, when Murphy's Law comes knocking, you already have the money to make it go away. I'd rather be prepared for a crisis than spend time and energy scrambling to fix it.

The 401(k) loan is simply a symptom of a much larger cultural problem. But change has to start somewhere. And one place to draw a line in the sand is by deciding that the 401(k) loan is off the table. It's not an option. Period. Not only does it keep people in debt, but it also robs them of money they could be earning in their investments if they hadn't taken out the money in the first place. And no one comes out ahead in that equation!

*Chris Hogan is the #1 national best-selling author of Retire Inspired: It's Not an Age. It's a Financial Number and host of the Retire Inspired Podcast. A popular and dynamic speaker on the topics of personal finance, retirement and leadership, Hogan helps people across the country develop successful strategies to manage their money in both their personal lives and businesses. You can follow Hogan on Twitter and Instagram at @ChrisHogan360 and online at chris Hogan360.com or facebook.com/chris Hogan360.*





## First Success Story

By Daniel Barron  
Mitchell County

On the afternoon of July 2nd Mitchell County 911 received a call from a family saying an adult registered with Project LifeSaver was missing. A team of 5 Emergency Service and 2 Head Start Personnel followed the established protocol they had learned recently during Project LifeSaver training. A team member serving as the officer-in-charge along with the local fire and rescue group and a member of the team with access to the location seeking technology responded to the area the subject was last seen. Fortunately the individual was located quickly because the family knew exactly what to do to assist the first responders and they, in turn, followed the search techniques they had been taught. While the technology was on the way, the other aspects of training paid off and prevented this individual from wandering into a much more dangerous mountain side. An onsite test of the equipment demonstrated its potential benefit had the initial search not been successful.

As of this writing, 4 children and 2 adults have received the Project LifeSaver location devices, been registered with 911, their families instructed in the appropriate steps should their loved ones become missing, and have families that can rest easy knowing that their loved ones will always be guided home. Four other individuals are in the process of becoming registered and receiving their location devices.

Mitchell County Project LifeSaver has resulted from the efforts of individuals who are dedicated to making sure that children with autism and adults with Alzheimer's always have a lifeline to home should they ever wander away. This initiative began in June 2016 with concerns for the safety of one 3-year-old child with severe autism entering an early childcare program located between a major highway and a creek. The resulting conversations resulted in forming Safety Awareness for Everyone (SAFE). The membership includes representatives from Head Start, Mitchell County Sheriff's Office, both DSS Children and Adult Services, the Family Support Network, Bakersville Police Department, Mitchell County Public Library, Bakersville Community Health Center, and area Fire Departments.

The initial funding for the equipment and training came from a grant awarded by The Fund for Mitchell County in collaboration with The Community Foundation of Western North Carolina (<https://www.cfwnc.org/AffiliateFunds/TheFundforMitchellCounty.aspx>) to SAFE and the Mitchell County Sheriff's Department. The system can accommodate as many clients as can be identified so others will be added. Persons with limited budgets may qualify for free service. To learn more about Project Lifesaver go to <http://www.projectlifesaver.org/> or contact locally Pam Snyder: [pamsnyder40@yahoo.com](mailto:pamsnyder40@yahoo.com) or 828-688-2199 ex 14 or Detective Courtney Beam: [cbeammcso@gmail.com](mailto:cbeammcso@gmail.com) or 828-385-2522.

*Dr. Daniel Barron was a distinguished Professor Emeritus at University of South Carolina. He was the former director of AMYS Regional Library. Dan is now retired.*



## The Heavens

By Rev. Bruce Cannon  
Mitchell County

*The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows his handiwork. (Psalm 19:1)*

I have always been fascinated with the heavens. As a young boy, I can remember staring into the heavens and being so amazed at the beauty, the vastness and the expanse of them. How amazing! A moon rise coming up out of the water, a starry night or a sunrise or sunset all speak to the magnificence of creation.

But, the mountains aren't half bad either. And, they have already begun their annual "show". Here, in later September, the colors have already begun to become vibrant. The reds, yellows and oranges will make the mountains appear as if a beautiful hand-made quilt were draped across them.

Yet, as beautiful as all of this is, there is One behind all of this that is so much more amazing, beautiful and special!

A hermeneutical principal I learned in seminary is, "that which is created is always significantly less than the one who created it." My wife makes a spectacular pound cake. It takes almost an hour to get it ready for the oven and another hour or so to cook it. When it is cooking our whole home smells wonderful. When the cake comes out of the oven, it truly is a site to behold. And the taste....O my! Yet she is so much more special than the cake for many, many reasons. One being, once I eat the cake it is gone. She, on the other hand, can make more cakes. Therefore, for that simple reason alone she is much more significant and special than that one cake.

A simple illustration, I know, but one which serves to make my point. The heavens, the mountains, the oceans, or a baby all are absolutely incredible. Yet, behind all of these is One who is absolutely so much more amazing!

He did not have to make the mountains so colorful. Neither did He have to make the starry night so incredible. Or, a moon rise or sun rise so spectacular. Yet He did, and it was no problem for Him to do so at all.

Remember, that which is created is always significantly less than the one who created it. He, our God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, is so much more amazing, so much more incredible and so much more special than the objects of His creation.

And, His heart is on us. My first grandbaby is now 3 months old. And I think he is very special. He has my heart wrapped around his tiny fingers. I would do anything for him.

Our God will do anything we need Him to do for us. He incredibly loves us! He always wants the very best for us. He is always giving us spectacular gifts.

Do you know Him? If not, why not accept Him today? If you do know Him, rest in His care. He is for you, not against you. He loves you with an everlasting and amazing love! Rejoice in this. And, as the mountains get so much prettier over the next few weeks, enjoy. Our God did all of this!

*Rev. Bruce Cannon currently serves as the Senior Pastor of Bear Creek Baptist Church in Bakersville. Formerly he served as Director of Missions for the Bladen Baptist Association and has served on the General Board of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.*



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## HALLOWED BE THY NAME

By Joyce (Joy) Harwood Baldwin

*It's Halloween again they say  
In October every year  
The children go to trick or treat  
Think I'll just stay right here.*

*Goblins, ghost and candy  
Whoever thought of such a thing  
Tho as a child I took my part  
Now I'll sit by the window and sing.*

*My Song is "Our Heavenly Father  
Hallowed be thy name all year  
I'm glad You are Holy and Mighty  
So we never have to live in fear."*

*If children don't know about His Love  
To cover their head they might  
Yet knowing of The Father's great power  
They feel safe 'n secure on Halloween night*



Joy is a resident of Madison County, where she now lives with her husband, Danny Joe Baldwin. She is currently a member of Mt Zion Baptist church in Marshall, NC. As a previous member, she calls Forks of Ivy Missionary Baptist Church in Weaverville, "home away from home". She is currently singing with the Gospel Group "Jonah's Voice" out of Mars Hill, NC. Her latest song "Homecoming" will soon be heard by many.



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The Rest of the Bird Story

By Lana Ellis  
Tennessee

I prefer to write lightheartedly with a moral to the story but the Rest of the Bird Story is far from that. In the previous article I contrasted the living conditions of the swallows in the wooden bird house and the killdeer who nested in an unprotected open area on a bed of pebbles. The last time I saw swallows at the box there was a bird on the fence nearby and another head sticking out from inside the box. Soon that bird flew away with the other one and I saw no more action. While cleaning out the bird house I found a very well built nest with a nice feather bed but to my dismay inside the feather bed were three dead birds. From outward appearances the swallow siblings were living a life of ease but now we know they were in captivity. Just as captivity has no place in the life of a wild bird there is no place in God's plan that would prevent His children from the freedom He promises in His Word. I think it's no coincidence that as I write I'm beginning the Bible study "Breaking Free" by Beth Moore. This study is based on the book of Isaiah described by her as "a book about the captivity of God's children, the faithfulness of God and the road to freedom." She goes on to say, "Like Israel and Judah, much of our own captivity is caused by failure to remove obstacles such as unbelief, pride, idolatry, prayerlessness and Spirit-quenching legalism."

The first temptation Satan put before humans was doubting God's Word and even though he has been defeated he's still in the business of putting doubt or unbelief in the minds of God's children. Until the chains of unbelief are broken



we are definitely being held captive. Isaiah's account of the Kings of Judah and Israel goes straight to pride as being the reason for many of their failures. The pride of those kings and the New Testament Pharisees is easily recognizable. John described Diotrephes as one "who loved to have the preeminence." It's also easy for us to recognize pride in a boastful person but pride can take on many disguises. Oh, how we humans love to be praised and honored, win medals and get pats on the back for our accomplishments and completed tasks. Pride says, "I don't need help. I can do it by myself." Mark 7:20-23 tells what Jesus thinks of pride and arrogance. There it is, right in the midst of a list of horrendous evil things such as murder, theft, fornications, slander, etc. It's described as a vice



that can defile a person. It takes a lot of gumption to confess pride in one's life. Why? Because of one's pride! Romans 12:3 *Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment.* Anything we do or accomplish should bring glory to God rather than to ourselves.

In Luke 18 Jesus told a parable of those who stood and prayed telling God their "good deeds", even fasting twice a week and paying tithes. They certainly looked good from the outside, but Jesus said they "trusted in themselves" which leads us to the third obstacle that must be removed, idolatry. "Not me", self says. Self, I have news for you. An idol is anything or person that consumes us more than God. Therefore, there's a possibility an idol in each of our lives goes by the name of "ME." It's all about "ME". The way we "worship" that idol is by self-satisfaction. The gifts we lay at the foot of "ME" are time, money, activities, sports, entertainment, friends and even family. Anything or person we treasure more than a relationship with God through Jesus is an idol. Some of the Old Testament kings participated in temple worship but were guilty of leaving "high places" for pagan worship. We Christians must destroy any "high places", those secret idols, in our lives that we think are hidden from others...but God knows.



As I began studying these obstacles individually I became aware of how easily they can be stacked one on another, building a wall that entraps. Failure to remove the obstacles of unbelief, pride and idolatry (ME) leads to prayerlessness. After all, by then I don't need God even if my outward appearance and actions say I do. Going through life without asking God for guidance is like traveling a road without signs or maps depending only on one's instincts. How lost we would be with all the unnecessary twists and turns.

It's easy to see how taking God out of the formula results in the last obstacle to freedom, Spirit-quenching legalism. Unlike the other obstacles legalism affects others as well as the individual. The words of Jesus in Matthew 15:8-9 hits the nail right on the head. *This people draws near to me with their mouths and honor me with their lips; but their hearts are far from me. In vain they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.* Colossians 2:8 See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ. In Acts 21:28 the religious people were adamant about those who were not like them entering into their congregations. The early church had to deal with their past traditions and so must we. It's possible that someone whose skin color is different, not dressed a certain way and/or not carrying a particular Bible translation can be shunned. And what about our church services? Are they so structured that the Spirit is prevented from ministering? Are there certain things we do just because we've always done it that way? Paul's warning to the Thessalonians was "Quench not the Spirit." The International Standard Version puts it this way. "Do not put out the Spirit's fire." Pouring on a bucket full of traditions and legalisms is a sure way of putting out the Holy Spirit's fire.

Only God knows why the swallows in the bird house did not take flight but I know what can keep me from the freedom I have in Christ. Will you join me in removing these barriers and any other obstacles from our lives that would prevent us from the Spirit-filled life promised by the "Truth" himself? Jesus said that He is the Truth and His Truth will set us free. We have the choice - become weak in captivity like my back yard swallows or break loose and soar on wings like eagles. (Isaiah 40:31)

Lana Ellis resides in Kingsport TN, next door to grandchildren. Church is West Colonial Hills Baptist Church.

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Shine For Him

By Ed Couser  
Yancey County

A little boy loved Jesus very much, and enjoyed hearing his mom and dad read Bible stories to him. Every day he invited Jesus to come into his heart and live there. This boy considered Jesus to be his best friend and hero.

Children are naturally interested in how they are growing. So, one day he asked his father: "Daddy, how tall am I?" "Last time we measured you, you were three feet tall," his dad responded. One day as his son was standing beside his dad, he asked his dad how tall he was. Dad said, "six feet, two inches." Then his son asked him, "How tall is Jesus?" Surprised, his father said that he was not exactly sure, but maybe Jesus was tall, like a tall basketball player. After a pause, this little boy seemed relieved about inviting Jesus to live in his heart. He said, "Daddy, if Jesus is so tall and I am so small, He must be sticking out of me."

This young boy's response to his dad about Jesus, reminds me of John 3:30. "He must increase, but I must decrease." One of the greatest prophets realized this too, John the Baptist. To me there is an important spiritual principle: when more of self disappears, the more of Christ appears. When we lift up Jesus in our lives, he will use our life and mine to draw others to Himself. I remember reading a book years ago, where the author said, "People would rather see a sermon, than hear a sermon any day."

So, what does it mean to be called a Christian today? Here is an excellent definition: "For to be a Christian is to be Christ like. Jesus is a perfect pattern and we need to imitate His example. A Christian is a representative of Christ" (Evangelism, pg. 641). Paul wrote these words in 2 Corinthians 3:18: "By beholding Him we become transformed." God's ideal for each one of us is for His light to shine brighter through us as we continue to walk with Him through His Spirit.

When my family and I lived in Canada, I had the privilege to have Bible studies with a young man, who was a boxer, training to be in the Olympics. What impressed me the most about him, was his long and arduous training regimen. With all his efforts, it did not guarantee he would be chosen to be a member of the Canadian boxing team. Nor, if chosen, win any medal. All this strain and struggle resulting in just a few winners, is for a perishable prize and fleeting fame. It is interesting that my friend abandoned any practice that would not enhance his chances to win. No sacrifice was too great for him to reach his goal.

It is amazing that in our spiritual Olympics, where the prize never perishes or fades, we can neglect such a great and eternal



salvation. It is because of Christ, who was victorious, that we too can run the race before us, we can be victorious, we can all go for the imperishable gold. Paul describes this spiritual Olympics we are all engaged in, in Hebrews 12:1,2: "Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." In this text, we find the secret of victory in Christ. All the ingredients for winning the prize of Christ-likeness are here. Christ-likeness is the goal in the spiritual race in our journey toward His kingdom.

A little girl was walking with her mother into church. The stained-glass windows depicted Christ's disciples and the sun's rays were shining beautifully through the windows. She said, "Mommy, now I know what good disciples of Jesus are like, the light of Jesus shines through them."

God bless you, as you shine for Him.

Ed Couser is the pastor for the Burnsville and Erwin Hills Seventh-day Adventist Churches. Previously he served churches in Ontario (Canada), New York, Kentucky and North Carolina. He also is a retired Chaplain, Lieutenant Colonel, having spent 29 years in the US Air Force. Pastor Couser, and his wife of 25 years, Carol, have four adult children: Melissa, Kaylee, Meagan and Drew. He enjoys sharing the love of Jesus and encouraging others to prepare for His soon return.



By Joyce Tipton Boone

He didn't look like our savior lying there,  
While His earthly parents took tender care.  
Yet, there wrapped in swaddling clothes  
He lay in a manger,  
The Savior to all who would believe,  
Yet, to some a stranger.

He didn't look like a King, hanging there.  
He didn't look like the Son of God, with power.  
But, He was both of these and more.  
He was LOVE come down from glory.  
LOVE took our place. He died for our sins.  
Open up your hearts door, let the Savior in.



Joyce Boone is a member of Liberty Hill Baptist Church at Estatoe. She loves the Lord.

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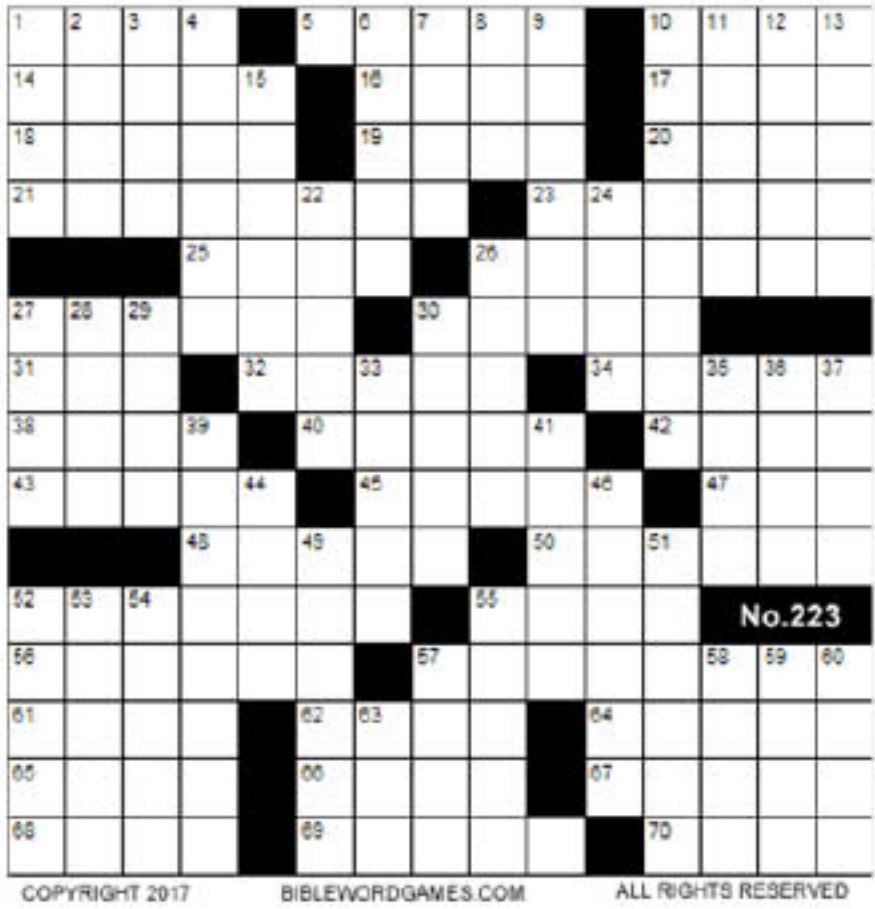
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# Crossword

ACROSS  
 1 he said, \_\_\_\_\_, Father, all things are possible unto thee (Mark 14:36) KJV  
 5 They were hungry and thirsty, and their lives \_\_\_\_\_ away (Ps 107:5)  
 10 Five gold tumors and five gold \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Sam 6:4)  
 14 with silver, iron, tin, and lead, they traded in thy \_\_\_\_\_. (Ezek 27:12) KJV  
 16 Remember, O LORD, your great mercy and \_\_\_\_\_ (Ps 25:6)  
 17 Their calls will \_\_\_\_\_ through the windows (Zeph 2:14)  
 18 there is only \_\_\_\_\_ between me and death (1,4) (1 Sam 20:3)  
 19 twenty male goats, two hundred \_\_\_\_\_ and twenty rams (Gen 32:14)  
 20 he made a \_\_\_\_\_ of cherubim of olive wood (1 Kings 6:23)  
 21 You will be a \_\_\_\_\_ wanderer on the earth (Gen 4:12)  
 23 represent four kingdoms that will \_\_\_\_\_ from his nation (Dan 8:22)  
 25 righteous is a tree of life, and he who \_\_\_\_\_ souls is wise (Prov 11:30)  
 26 below the lions and bulls were \_\_\_\_\_ of hammered work (1 Kings 7:29)  
 27 Such is the fate God \_\_\_\_\_ the wicked (Job 20:29)  
 30 but the \_\_\_\_\_ wound had been healed (Rev 13:3)  
 31 Your hand will \_\_\_\_\_ hold on all your enemies (Ps 21:8)  
 32 fantastic, first-rate  
 34 the ear \_\_\_\_\_ words as the tongue tastes food (Job 34:3)  
 38 killed some twenty men in an area of about half an \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Sam 14:14)  
 40 from foundation to \_\_\_\_\_, were made of blocks of high-grade stone (1 Kings 7:9)  
 42 in nakedness and \_\_\_\_\_ poverty, you will serve the enemies (Deut 28:48)  
 43 remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many \_\_\_\_\_ (John 12:24)  
 45 Jesus replied, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have \_\_\_\_\_ (Matt 8:20)  
 47 first book of the Bible (abbr.)  
 48 pure gold, more rare than the gold of \_\_\_\_\_ (Isa 13:12)  
 50 Sir, your mina has \_\_\_\_\_ ten more (Luke 19:16)  
 52 the place of the Skull (which in \_\_\_\_\_ is called Golgotha) (John 19:17)  
 55 Christ Jesus came into the world to \_\_\_\_\_ sinners (1 Tim 1:15)  
 56 all the male goats \_\_\_\_\_ with the flock are streaked (Gen 31:12)  
 57 whoever lives and \_\_\_\_\_ in me will never die (John 11:26)  
 61 consciences have been seared as with \_\_\_\_\_ iron (1,3) (1 Tim 4:2)  
 62 when the ram's \_\_\_\_\_ sounds a long blast may they go up (Exod 19:13)  
 64 vines and fig trees, pomegran-

ates, \_\_\_\_\_ oil and honey (Deut 8:8)  
 65 The blind receive their sight, and the \_\_\_\_\_ walk (Matt 11:5)  
 66 son of Seth (Gen 4:26) KJV  
 67 they will \_\_\_\_\_ the ruined cities that have been devastated (Isa 61:4)  
 68 now my life \_\_\_\_\_ away; days of suffering grip me (Job 30:16)  
 69 When they had \_\_\_\_\_ three or three and a half miles (John 6:19)  
 70 animals take cover; they remain in their \_\_\_\_\_ (Job 37:8)  
  
 DOWN  
 1 Peter followed him \_\_\_\_\_ off unto the high priest's palace (Matt 26:58)  
 2 Its posts he made of silver, its \_\_\_\_\_ of gold (Song 3:10)  
 3 we put \_\_\_\_\_ into the mouths of horses to make them obey (James 3:3)  
 4 Also there \_\_\_\_\_ olive trees by it (3,3) (Zech 4:3)  
 6 he will \_\_\_\_\_ those who fear the LORD (Ps 115:13)  
 7 large shields, the \_\_\_\_\_ and arrows, the war clubs and spears (Ezek 39:9)  
 8 the serpent beguiled \_\_\_\_\_ through his subtilty (2 Cor 11:3)  
 9 A voice of one calling in the \_\_\_\_\_ (Matt 3:3)  
 10 The laws of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be \_\_\_\_\_ (Dan 6:8)  
 11 an ox from each leader and \_\_\_\_\_ from every two (1,4) (Num 7:3)  
 12 the hollow of Jacob's \_\_\_\_\_ in the sinew that shrank (Gen 32:32) KJV  
 13 the dogs came and licked his \_\_\_\_\_ (Luke 16:21)  
 15 whoever \_\_\_\_\_ logs may be endangered by them (Eccl 10:9)  
 22 do good; let him seek peace, and \_\_\_\_\_ it (1 Pet 3:11) (KJV)  
 24 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me \_\_\_\_\_ (Matt 25:35)  
 26 their sailors came alongside to trade for your \_\_\_\_\_ (Ezek 27:9)  
 27 \_\_\_\_\_ for that day is great (Jer 30:7)  
 28 unto the rings of the ephod with a \_\_\_\_\_ of blue (Ex 28:28) KJV  
 29 strike the tambourine, play the melodious harp and \_\_\_\_\_ (Ps 81:2)  
 30 he touched her hand, and the \_\_\_\_\_ left her (Matt 8:15)  
 33 I will strike every horse with \_\_\_\_\_ and its rider with madness (Zech 12:4)  
 35 They will be a \_\_\_\_\_ and a wonder to you (Deut 28:46)  
 36 A good \_\_\_\_\_ cannot bring forth evil fruit (Matt 7:18)  
 37 The Lord needs it and will



it back here shortly (Mark 11:3)  
 39 This is the account of Esau the father of the \_\_\_\_\_ (Gen 36:9)  
 41 "Do not commit adultery," "Do not murder," "Do not \_\_\_\_\_ (Rom 13:9)  
 44 will be forgotten for seventy years, the \_\_\_\_\_ of a king's life (Isa 23:15)  
 46 into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus (2 Peter 1:11)  
 49 For great is your love, \_\_\_\_\_ than the heavens (Ps 108:4)  
 51 They \_\_\_\_\_ and staggered like drunken men (Ps 107:27)  
 52 every kind of clean animal, \_\_\_\_\_ and its mate (1,4) (Gen 7:2)  
 53 Joshua spared \_\_\_\_\_ the prostitute, with her family (Josh

6:25)  
 54 disciples came and took his body and laid it in \_\_\_\_\_ (1,4) (Mark 6:29)  
 55 endow her with wisdom or give her a share of good \_\_\_\_\_ (Job 39:17)  
 57 drove him out of the town, and took him to the \_\_\_\_\_ of the hill (Luke 4:29)  
 58 I am the \_\_\_\_\_; you are the branches (John 15:5)  
 59 they are not of the world, \_\_\_\_\_ as I am not of the world (John 17:14)  
 60 patch from a new garment and \_\_\_\_\_ it on an old one (Luke 5:36)  
 63 Eber, Misham, Shemed who built \_\_\_\_\_ and Lod (1 Chron 8:12)

Solution on page 14



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# Hospice and Palliative Care of the Blue Ridge

## Moved with Compassion

By Brent Price  
Mitchell County

We hear it almost every day. You learn of a person who is struggling and broken, someone whose circumstances don't appear to offer much hope. You may feel sorry for them and might feel a real surge of sympathy. But we all know how hard it is to get too close to misery and misfortune. They're just "pitiful."

When confronted with the pain and suffering of others, many of us are guilty of simply offering a blessing and continuing on our way. "I'll be praying for you" trails behind us as we leave some "pitiful" person to their struggle. In the second chapter of James we are challenged to respond very differently to those whom we might be tempted to label as "pitiful." *"If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, and one of you says unto them, Depart in peace, be warmed and filled; but you give them none of the things which are needful for the body; what does it matter? (James 2:15-16)"*

Pity, as I see it, offers no power. It allows us to dismiss persons. It creates distance and keeps us uninvolved. Pity avoids relationship and insulates us from entering into the suffering of others.

Jesus did not look out to the hungry multitudes, offer a blessing and send them on their way. He didn't turn to the disciples and say, "Look, brothers. Aren't these poor people pitiful? It's a shame they didn't bring anything to eat." No, Jesus felt their hunger. He knew they didn't have the means to purchase food. He was concerned for their well-being—*"I will not send them away fasting, lest they faint in the way (Matthew 15:32)." Jesus hears the cries of the lepers, the blind, the hungry and the mourning and he is moved to compassion. Corrupted flesh is made whole and unblemished. Darkness is turned to light as sight is restored.*

The poor eat and are satisfied. Mourning is turned into dancing as the dead return to life. The word we know as "compassion" in its earliest form literally means "suffer together." This is the work of bearing fruit. Here is the work of love, what it means to enter the lives of others.

Jesus is moved by the hurt and brokenness of those around him. So, he does the only thing he can. He heals and feeds. He binds up the broken-hearted. He loves the unlovable. He embraces "the wrong people." His love, rooted in compassion, transforms lives and draws attention to the suffering that is ignored by the powers that be.

I've been blessed to sit at tables where multitudes have been miraculously fed. I've been embraced by persons who felt they had little to offer and yet they offered more than anyone could imagine. Unaware of my own blindness, my sight has repeatedly been restored. I've celebrated the joy that follows mourning and know that even in the most desperate hours we need to be touched by a hand moved with compassion—to heal us, to restore us and to offer us hope.

*Reverend Brent Price is a chaplain at Hospice & Palliative Care of the Blue Ridge.*



## A Meditation

### Knowing the Lord

By Timothy Eller  
McDowell County

In Exodus 3:14 Jehovah God told Moses to tell the children of Israel that I AM had sent him. He introduced himself as I am that I AM to Moses at the burning bush. In Exodus 3:6 Yahweh identifies himself as I AM the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He makes himself also known in Isaiah 43:

Isaiah 43:10

*"Ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me." (KJV)*

*Yahweh said that Isaiah was sent to declare him as I AM. And that there never has been nor never will be any other God formed except Yahweh. We find more out about the I AM in Isaiah 43:25:*

*25 I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins.*

It is I AM that blotteth transgressions for mine own sake and will no longer remember my sins.

As we study who was this Jesus, who was it that blotted out our sins with his Blood?

The answer is found in Isaiah 45:17-18.

*17 But Israel shall be saved in the LORD with an everlasting salvation: ye shall not be ashamed nor confounded world without end.*

*18 For thus saith the LORD that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited: I am the LORD; and there is none else.*

Who is this Jesus?

*Tim Eller graduated from Carolina Graduate School of Divinity and has been involved in prison and jail ministry for the past fifteen years. Currently he is operating in the capacity of a servant of Jesus Christ.*



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## Exclamations in Nature

Ken and Jan Merop  
Avery County



I cherish two special memories involving children and nature from our back-to-back trips to North Carolina and then to Colorado.

We had taken our 3 1/2-year-old grandson, Jonathon – a nature lover – to a Christmas tree farm near his home. The farm also has animals to feed and tractors to wow the youngest of tractor lovers.

He had a blast. But, my favorite picture is of this little guy walking ahead of us amidst towering Christmas trees while waving his arms and talking out loud to them. The outdoors speaks to him and he couldn't help but respond.

While on a hike in Rocky Mountain National Park a few weeks later, Ken and I and our friends, Howard and Alynne, passed by a mom, dad and their young son. Inhaling the scents of the forest and enthralled by the wonder of nature, our souls were fed even more by this youngster.

Ken and Howard were a little ahead of us when they heard the boy genuinely exclaim, "This is life!"

Then as we brought up the rear and the family drew closer to us, the boy asked in a voice of wonder and hope, "Can I move here?"

His eyes were alight with joy as he embraced the place and how it made him feel.

I couldn't help but respond, "Sure. And I'll move here, too!"

Of course, it's not possible to move to a national park. But, the sights and sounds of such a place take up residence in us somehow. And that's because it's not simply 'nature.' It's a manifestation of who God is.

The Bible tells us in Romans 1: 20, NIV, "For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities – his eternal power and divine nature – have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse."

Many other Scripture references attest to the intricacies and varieties in God's creation. And, yet, we so often want to explain it away as 'mother nature' or the evolutionary theory. In reality, God has revealed himself through his creation so that we might be drawn to him – who is the more magnificent, awe-inspiring being behind creation.

And he longs to have a relationship with us.

We are given opportunities on every walk along a roadway where wild flowers grow; every hike into the mountains where waterfalls surprise us, awakening our senses; and, gazing into the night sky twinkling with endless stars to talk about our amazing creator God.

Nature exclaims his majesty. Let's do the same and point our children to him. Selah

## Picnic in the Park

*Ablaze with autumn's invitation...  
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"He did not leave Himself without witness,  
in that He did good, gave us rain from heaven  
and fruitful seasons,  
filling our hearts with food and gladness."  
Acts 14: 17*



Ken and Jan reside in Land Harbour in Avery County, where they have moved in retirement because they love our mountains. They have written for us in years past.

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Where Am I and How Did I Get Here

By Jason Koon  
Burke County

I didn't start off trying to be the pastor of an established Bible belt church. In the early days of my calling into ministry, I always imagined I'd be out on the Mission field somewhere, taking the gospel into the deepest, darkest reaches of the world. Somehow, I ended up here. Early on, I had a picture in my mind of what it might look like to be the pastor of an established Baptist Church in the Bible belt, and I didn't like it. Sitting in my study, comfortable, except for the tie that I kept close by in case a deacon dropped by unannounced. It was not my idea of taking the gospel to the nations. It didn't seem as Christ-like to me as going to the majority world and living in poverty for the sake of the Gospel. But this is where I ended up. I didn't "sell-out" or get off track, I don't think I settled for the American Dream instead of pursuing the Kingdom of God, it's just that as I went through college and my early years in ministry, it just naturally began to take this shape. And I'm thankful for what God has given me.

So here is my epiphany. I am in the Mission field and you are too. We are in one of the dark, largely unreached corners of the globe, but what makes the darkness in our context so insidious, is that a lot of it looks like light. We live in a world where many people are caught up in a false form of Christianized idolatry, a religion that has all the form but none of the power. We have potlucks, "Gospel Sangin's", and good preaching, and there's nothing wrong with those things. But, the reality is, that most of the people who live in my neighborhood don't really understand who God is, and many that do, have so much else going on that the gospel isn't impacting their lives like the Bible says it's supposed to. But everything's fine, right? I file in, fill my spot in the pew, and then file on to get back to the business of "real life." Sometimes I even go on Wednesday night. I'm living for Jesus, right?

I think that we are going to need to begin approaching life as a Believer in the Bible Belt the same way that our older brothers and sisters in the faith approached taking the gospel to the unreached heathen on the other side of the world. People are living in darkness; 70% of my neighbors rarely if ever go to church, and I am becoming more and more convinced that many of those who do are no more worshipping the Christ of the Bible than the unconverted masses who have never heard his name. Church, we are in the mission field. The lost are in our neighborhoods, in our families, and in many cases in our own Churches. If our lives are going to have the same kind of Kingdom impact as the lives of people like Lottie Moon, William Carey, David Brainerd, George Liele and the countless others who came before us, they are going to have to start taking on some of the same characteristics as these did. Most importantly, get a passion that all might hear the Gospel. From the man in Africa who has never heard the Gospel, to the man in North Carolina, teaching Sunday School, who has heard it thousands of times but never fully given himself to it.

Jason Koon is Pastor of Bridge42 Church in Morganton, NC.



By Amber Dillinger  
Mitchell and Yancey County

Recently a number of our patients may have received a letter from Blue Cross Blue Shield regarding their physician at one of the Mountain Community Health Partnership centers; Celo Health Center or Bakersville Community Medical Clinic.

The letter from BCBS of NC indicated that as of October 5, 2017, their physician is no longer in network with Blue Medicare HMO and that they have been assigned to a new provider.

While factually correct, the letter is misleading in that it does not clearly state that this happened because their physician has admitting privileges with Mission Health and Blue Ridge Regional Hospital and therefore was lumped in with all the other Mission affiliated physicians impacted by Mission's decision to leave BCBS.

What are the facts you need to know?

Physicians and Providers at Mountain Community Health Partnership (MCHP) health centers, are in network with BCBS and Blue Medicare HMO and will continue to be in network, even if Mission Health does actually leave BCBS.

MCHP is NOT affiliated in any form or fashion with Mission Health. We've never been part of Mission, and never plan to be. MCHP and all of its health centers are community-owned and managed, providing primary care health services to patients in Mitchell, Yancey counties and surrounding areas.

All provider services provided at MCHP health centers are considered in network with BCBS and Blue Medicare HMO.

What do you need to do?

Unfortunately, BCBS is a large corporation and while we will work diligently to have BCBS correct our patients erroneous assignment to another provider, it may take a while. In the meantime, affected patients should call BCBS Customer Service Department to have them assigned back to their original physician at Celo Health Center or Bakersville Community Medical Clinic. The BCBS Customer Service Department is 1-888 310-4110.

We sincerely apologize for the inconvenience this may cause our patients. It's unfortunate when patients are negatively impacted by the actions of others. Rest assured that your healthcare is our priority and we'll continue to provide the highest quality of patient care possible to all of our patients.

Please feel free to contact our Patient Advocate, Amber Dillinger with any questions regarding your Blue Medicare coverage. Open enrollment is coming soon for Medicare and Amber is an expert in assisting patients making the best selection for their coverage. Amber can be reached at 828 688-6621.

For more information or to learn more about our health center please contact: Amber Dillinger, Outreach and Enrollment 828-688-6621 [adillinger@mchp.care](mailto:adillinger@mchp.care) Visit our websites at: <http://thebchc.org/> or <http://www.celohealthcenter.com/medical/> Article written by: Chuck Shelton, CEO

Amber Dillinger is the Outreach and Enrollment/Certified Application Counselor at Bakersville Community Health Center





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## Armadillos

By Christy Lowman  
Burke County



Did you know that God made animals with armor? One animal has armor that covers its entire body except for its tummy. It comes in many different colors: pink, red, black, gray, and yellow. This animal is nocturnal, and an omnivore, which means it will eat pretty much anything! Have you figured out what animal I am talking about?

If you guessed an armadillo, you are correct!

There are 21 different varieties of armadillos. The smallest is called the pink fairy and weighs about three ounces. The largest is called the giant armadillo and can weigh as much as 120 pounds! The three-banded armadillo is the only one that can tuck its body and change its shell to look like a ball to keep predators from eating them. Most armadillos dig holes to cover their unprotected hairy bellies leaving only their armor sticking out when threatened. The screaming hairy armadillo has hairs between its armor plates and screams when a predator is near. It also uses its shell to cut animals that try to eat it. The nine-banded armadillo is the only armadillo that lives in the United States. They are the only armadillo that has quadruplet babies each time they give birth, and are the official animal of the state of Texas.

The word armadillo is Spanish, and means "little armored one." Their body is



barrel shaped; they have pointy shovel-like snouts, and have a long sticky tongue to eat termites and ants. Sharp claws and strong legs make digging burrows easy. Their eye-

sight is bad so they use their hairs as feelers, and their sense of smell to help them get around. Armadillos live mainly in warm areas of the world due to their lack of body fat to keep them warm.

You can eat armadillos, they say it tastes like pork, but I highly don't recommend it! Armadillos carry the bacteria that cause the disease leprosy, which you could catch from eating or handling them. This is the very same leprosy that is mentioned in the Bible, and has no cure.

Did you know that an armadillo's armor is so strong that there have been stories of men that have shot them, and the bullet didn't go through the shell? In fact, the shell was so strong that it sent the bullet bouncing back to the shooter! Now that is some mighty strong armor!

When I think of armor, I think of a knight in the Lord's army fighting for the Lord against evil. I see him being confident that nothing can stop him because he is protected by the Lord with the armor that He gave him, resting assured that good always wins over evil. Did you know that God really has given us armor to put on daily to help us fight our battles against the devil? We will talk about the individual pieces at a later date. Isn't it awesome that God loves us so much he equipped us with armor to make it through each day against things we encounter? It might be a bully at school, or the dreaded stomach bug, or being scared of a thunderstorm. There are tons of things that we encounter each day but rest assured you are not doing it alone! God is with you always and will protect you in whatever you might endure!

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. Ephesians 6: 10-18 ESV

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9 NIV

Dear Lord, I pray that you will show each child how to use Your armor. I pray that they will always have comfort in knowing that you are with them always no matter what. Help them be strong, brave and tough skinned like the armadillo in whatever they face. In Jesus's precious name I pray AMEN.

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Christy Lowman is a Christian author and illustrator that lives in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains with her husband and two children. She enjoys writing and illustrating books for all ages. Some of her short stories are published with Guideposts and HCL. Christy gives all the glory to God in everything she does. A portion of every book sold from the Small Bible Character Series will be donated to battle human trafficking. If you enjoy her books, 'like' her author page on Facebook and let her know! You can buy her books at [https://www.amazon.com/s/ref=dp\\_byline\\_sr\\_book\\_1?ie=UTF8&field-author=Christy+Lowman&search-alias=books&text=Christy+Lowman&sort=relevancerank](https://www.amazon.com/s/ref=dp_byline_sr_book_1?ie=UTF8&field-author=Christy+Lowman&search-alias=books&text=Christy+Lowman&sort=relevancerank). You can reach her at <https://www.facebook.com/authorChristyLowman/> or [christyssoaps@yahoo.com](mailto:christyssoaps@yahoo.com).



Morganton Baptist Church

Fight the Right Fight

Pastor Dan Quorllo  
Burke County

1 Samuel 17 contains what is probably the most famous battle in all the Word of God, the battle between David and Goliath. The details of the story are fascinating, as a teenage shepherd defeats a giant who caused an entire army to be paralyzed with fear. Before David ever fought Goliath, he was faced with two battles he chose to not fight. David refused to be sidetracked by smaller battles and thereby remained focused on the most important battle. We must remain focused on fighting the right battles; failure to do so may have disastrous consequences.

The first battle which David chose to not fight is the battle of false accusation. David was told by his father to take food to the army to see how the battle was going. It was customary for the families to provide food for the fighting army to sustain them. David did exactly as he was told to do, but when he arrived, he was greeted by his oldest brother Eliab. Eliab was perhaps jealous over not being chosen to be the next king of Israel (1 Samuel 16:6-7). Regardless, his words were filled with animosity and false accusation as he said, "Why camest thou down hither? and with whom hast thou left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know thy pride, and the naughtiness of thine heart; for thou art come down that thou mightest see the battle" (1 Samuel 17:28). David chose to not fight the battle of



false accusation or to defend his honor. Rather, he dispelled the argument by simply stating, "What have I now done? Is there not a cause?"

The second battle which David chose to not fight is the battle of negativity. Nobody in the entire army was willing to face Goliath, nor did they want David to face Goliath (1 Samuel 16:30). Eventually, Saul received word of David's intentions and sent to speak with David. Rather



than encouraging him, Saul told David that defeat was inevitable. Note what Saul said to David, "Thou art not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him: for thou art but a youth, and he a man of war from his youth" (1 Samuel 17:33). In essence, Saul told David, "You cannot fight against him and win. Victory for you is impossible." Rather than fighting this battle, David simply recounted the victories that God had already granted him.

We are often quick to defend our honor. Far too many believers spar back and forth on social media as well as other outlets against false accusation. Meanwhile, the cause of Christ is ignored, and His people are no longer advancing His kingdom; they are instead advancing their own agenda. We hear all the time of things that cannot be done. We cannot allow negativity to discourage or sidetrack us; we must instead press on with that which God has called us to do. We cannot allow ourselves to be sidetracked from that which is most important. Would there have been a battle with Goliath if David had a knock-down, drag-out fight with his brother? What if David had listened to the negativity of Saul? Let's determine to fight the right battles and refuse to be sidetracked by that which is of lesser importance.

Pastor Dan Quorllo is pastor Morganton Baptist Church. Check us out on our website [www.morgantonbaptist.net](http://www.morgantonbaptist.net) or find us on Facebook and YouTube.

West Burnsville Baptist Church

Calls New Pastor

By Wanda Harding  
Yancey County

West Burnsville Baptist Church welcomes Pastor Terry Long as their new pastor beginning the end of October. Pastor Long is 37 years old, has fifteen years ministerial experience, and is currently serving at First Baptist Church, Charlotte. He



has a Master of Divinity from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and will soon complete a Master of Theology from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Pastor Long and his wife, Joyce Tucker Long, have three daughters and a soon to arrive baby boy. Mrs. Long, from Hamptonville, NC, is the daughter of a Southern Baptist pastor. She is a kindergarten teacher.

Wanda Harding is pianist at West Burnsville Baptist Church in Burnsville and has been part of the creative team that produces the pageant since its inception.

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Domestic Violence-  
It's Not Just Physical

By Tracy Black  
Mitchell County

It was 10 o'clock when the hotline rang. The voice on the other end was timid and scared, "I think I'm going crazy," she said. I smiled to myself because I'd heard this phrase many times before, "Tell me why you say that." She then told me of many things that were happening in her marriage. The final straw was when she went to her friend's baby shower and he texted her 34 times in an hour. "What's wrong with me, am I crazy?" No, my dear you're not crazy, you're abused!"

October is Domestic Violence Awareness month, a time we set aside to shine a spotlight on domestic violence and the damaging effects it has on the victims and society as a whole. The problem is, we tend to focus on the physical violence and overlook that which causes more long-term damage that can sometimes last a life time. Emotional abuse is insidious and can make you feel like you are going crazy!

"Emotional abuse includes verbal abuse such as yelling, name-calling, blaming, and shaming. Isolation, intimidation, and controlling behavior also fall under emotional abuse. Abusers who use emotional or psychological abuse often throw in threats of physical violence or other repercussions if you don't do what they want." (Smith & Segal).

In the beginning, it is not uncommon for a victim to passively ignore some of the snide comments and put downs. They occur sporadically and are often "peppered" with acts of kindness - leaving the victim feeling confused and unsure. Forgiveness and oversights are common. However, over time the road narrows between the acts of kindness and emotional and verbal abuse begins to narrow.

Emotional abuse simply "chips away" at how we think, value, and esteem ourselves. Until one day you wake up and have no idea how you got there, asking yourself, "how did that happen?"

Let me be clear, you have done nothing wrong. Abusers are just that good. Here are some signs of emotional abuse:

- Putting you down - especially in public in an attempt to shame you.
- Embarrassing you in public.
- Blaming you for their abusive and unhealthy behaviors.
- Threatening to harm you or your family. Often.
- Calling you derogatory names.
- Making you feel bad or guilty when you don't consent to sexual activity.
- Using gas-lighting to make you feel like you are doing something wrong or your behaviors are wrong. Making you feel like you are going crazy. Lying about things they said.
- Making you feel like you are always doing something wrong.
- Isolating you from your family and friends.
- Making demands on you when you do go out through numerous texts and phone calls.
- Stalking you.
- Threatening suicide when you attempt to break up with them.

If you have experienced emotional abuse remember, it didn't get bad overnight, so you won't heal from it overnight. As they say, the first step to healing is acknowledgement, so take that first step today and contact your local domestic violence program. You will find compassion and understanding.

Tracy Black is the Associate Director of Mitchell County SafePlace. She can be reached at 828-765-4015 or [tracyblack@bellsouth.net](mailto:tracyblack@bellsouth.net).



Telephones

By Allen Buchanan  
Mitchell County

"Hello?" "Hello?" "Can you hear me?" I don't recall ever starting a conversation with those words when we used a dial telephone in the sixties. When it came to talking on the telephone, none of us had many choices. My first remembrance was of one that hung on the wall, was black with white numbers, and had a clear ring with holes associated with numbers which you rotated one by one to call another person. I was confined to one spot while talking until the optional ten-foot cord was available. All telephones had a spiral cord that you played with during your time talking.

One of our buzz words today is "social media". I don't believe it's that new. Wasn't "party lines" a form of social media? Usually, several people in your neighborhood used the same phone line to make calls. Very often when you picked up the receiver, you'd hear others talking. The polite thing to do was hang up and wait your turn. Sometimes those talking would hear you pick up and ask, "who's there?" Then you could join in. For those really brave souls, some might eavesdrop and listen to the conversation without joining in. Bad idea! If I remember correctly the early years of social media was better known as "gossip". Hmm, I don't believe anyone refers to social media as gossip.

As amazing as the telephone of yesterday was, the ones that so many of us rely on today are truly awesome pieces of technology. The "cell phone or smartphone" as we know it offers so much more than simply talking to another person. Just today I heard that Apple has released a new version that uses "facial recognition" to allow you access to your own phone. With this technology, you basically just pick your phone up, look at it and if it recognizes you, it's ready to use. No more passwords to key in.

If you buy the latest and greatest smartphone, I strongly urge you to learn what it can do other than making calls. You have basically got a computer small enough to hold in your hand. I use my iPhone to track appointments and contacts, read daily devotions, order medicine refills, banking, music, news, GPS, movies, photography, games, and the list goes on and on.

We all give Alexander Graham Bell the credit for inventing the telephone because he was the first to obtain a patent in 1876. Can you imagine Bell on his telephone talking with Tim Cook on his iPhone?

There's no doubt that the telephone was a great invention and one which we probably never will do without. Yet it lacks one thing, it does not allow us to communicate with God. Only prayer will do that! No App needed. God gave man the knowledge to invent the telephone and He instilled the ability to pray or talk with Him into each of our hearts. When we are born, there is a void within each heart and soul that only Jesus can fill. At the moment, we realize this, and that we are sinners in need of a Savior; we are given the ability to pray.

As Nicole C. Mullen sings, "When I call on Jesus, all things are possible." Call, pray or talk, that's all you have to do to speak with Him. That's awesome!

Romans 10:13 *For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.*

1 Corinthians 1:2 *To the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours.*

Jeremiah 33:3 *Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.*

Psalms 18:3 *I will call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised: so, shall I be saved from mine enemies.*

Psalms 50:15 *And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me.*

Allen Buchanan is a freelance Christian writer. Allen attends Bear Creek Baptist Church.





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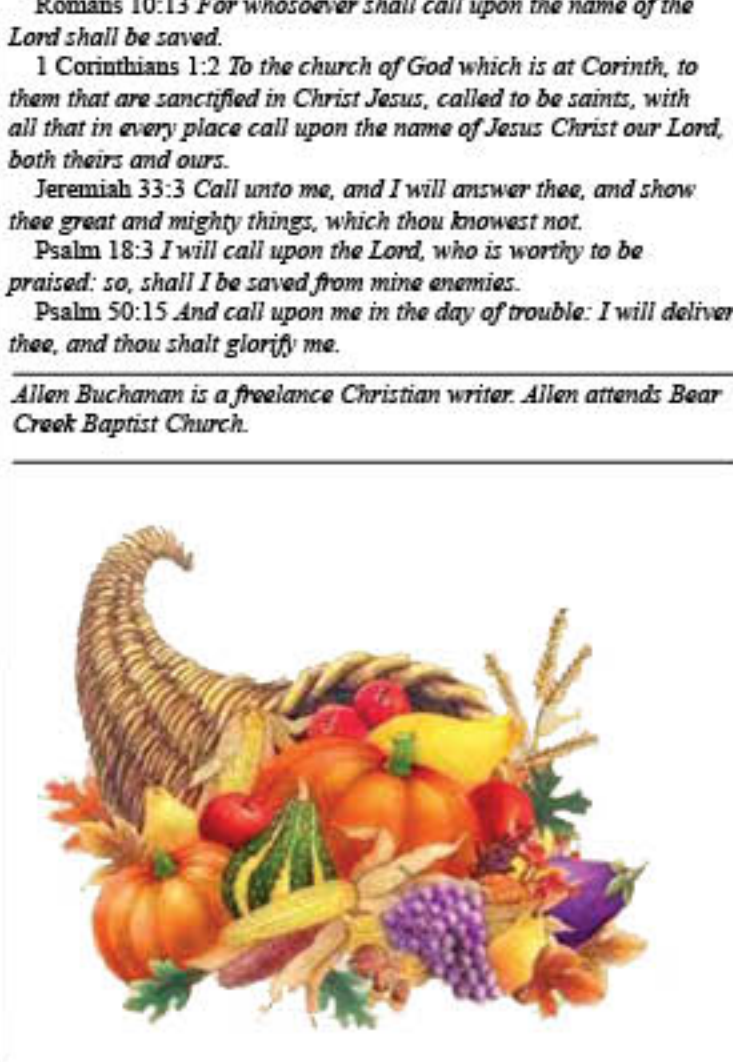
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# Burke United Christian Ministries

## Update on Support and Participation

By David Burleson  
Burke County

Burke United Christian Ministries would like to thank our entire community, especially our sustaining churches and individual donors, for your support over a very busy summer. Because of the assistance of our community and outstanding volunteers, BUCM was able to provide the following over the summer months:

- Back to School Clothes for over 600 Burke County Students
- Provided Clothes for 908 Individuals
- Assisted 136 Families with Baby Supplies
- Assisted 680 Individuals in a Financial Crisis
- Provided Case Management Services for 127 Individuals
- Supplied 7,368 individuals with groceries from the BUCM Food Pantry totaling almost 400,000 lbs. of food.
- Provided 467 individuals with showers and over 875 with hygiene products
- Served over 29,578 meals in the soup kitchen

This assistance was provided because of a supportive community, a caring staff and dedicated volunteers who provided over 18,000 hours of service. It definitely takes all of us working together to provide a hand up to people who are hurting.

As we all know, volunteers are the essential piece to every organization in our country. Year after year, volunteers contribute time and energy to assist at agencies. During the last fiscal year, volunteers at BUCM gave 36,353.96 hours. People volunteer for many different reasons, such as: helping others, making new friends, fighting boredom, establishing a new direction in life, giving back to the community or being part of an agency that is making a difference.

The Burke United Christian Ministries would like to invite members of our community to partner with our ministry and serve with us. Here are some volunteer opportunities:

**Food Harvesting** – Going to local grocery stores and restaurants to pick up donated food.

**Clothing Closet** – New opportunity – Assist clients in our clothing closet as they shop with a clothing voucher. The social workers write up a clothing voucher that allows the client to shop. Volunteers assist clients and then tally up their selection. No money is exchanged.

**Sorting, Inspecting, and Hanging** – Interested in being behind the scenes of the clothing closet or Saved for You Clothing Store? Volunteer to prepare items for the sales floor or clothing closet.

**Warehouse** – Unload, sort and organize perishable and non-perishable food



items. Assist in stocking the Food Pantry. Help keep the warehouse, freezers, and refrigerators organized. Clerical Support– Assist with production of newsletters, bulk mailings, flyers and more. Willing to do whatever or being on-call – Is your volunteer time flexible? Are you

interested in just being called on in a time of need? Volunteer to be called on when the donations are plenty or support is needed in the food pantry, clothing closet, dining room, front office, or anywhere in the ministry. We are especially in need of an on-call soup kitchen team for times when something comes up for the scheduled team or in times of bad weather.

Wanting to volunteer, but not sure where. Submit an application and let's talk about how you can make a difference with BUCM. BUCM asks volunteers to commit to a schedule, if possible. It could be weekly, bi-weekly, once a month. This allows for our department staff to plan and prepare for volunteers. For on-call volunteers, commitment is not requested. Without volunteers, we would be unable to operate, so we are willing to work with you to fit your schedule.

Along with volunteers, sustaining churches and individual donors, there have been many other groups and organizations that have supported the ministry of BUCM. These groups and organizations have sponsored special food drives:

- The East Burke and Freedom High School Communities during the Sideline Hunger Food Drive
- Headlines of Morganton
- Fatz Café of Morganton
- Linville United Methodist Church
- The Bended Knee Cowboy Church
- Rainhill Wesleyan Church
- South Side Baptist Church
- Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church
- Archer Western Contractors
- The Valdese Rotary Club
- The Burke County Retired Teachers

The next food drive to support the Burke United will be held at the Patton Vs. Draughn Football Game on September 29. If you are attending the game, be sure to bring non-perishable food to donate at the gate.

BUCM is also blessed to have many of our community grocery stores and



restaurants support us with donated food. Our ministry could not meet the needs of our clients without the following:

- The Food Lion Stores of Burke County
- Walmart Supercenter and the Neighborhood Walmart
- Bilo
- Food Matters
- Pizza Hut of Morganton and Valdese
- Moondog Pizza
- Pie Hole Pizza
- Delish
- Timberwoods
- Abele's

BUCM would also like to thank those who supply gently used clothes to place in our Saved for You Clothing Store and Clothing Closet. Every item sold in our clothing store goes back into our ministry. A big thank you also goes out to the Burke Organized Youth Philanthropists through the Community Foundation for supplying grant funds to supply shoes for students.

As we have stated many times, our ministry is stronger because of your support and participation. Remember that our ministry is here to assist those in Burke County who need a hand up. Feel free to give us a call at (828) 433-8075 or visit [www.bucm.net](http://www.bucm.net).

*David Burleson is Director of Burke United Christian Ministries*

## Sample Day Trip

Tour the Waldensian Museum  
Lunch & Downtown Shopping  
Tour the Trail of Faith  
Tour Waldensian Heritage Winery

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# Burke County School Accentuate the Positive

## Simmons named Principal of the Year— Childers named Assistant Principal of the Year

By Cheryl Shuffler  
Burke County

When people ask Freedom High School Principal Felicia Simmons how many kids she has, she takes the enrollment number at her school and adds three to it. Simon's motto is "family first" and to her, family includes her husband Monte, children Monte Jr., Felice and Micah, plus her students, faculty and staff.

This mother of 1,126 was named Burke County Public Schools Principal of the Year last Thursday night before the start of her new school family's home football game against East Burke High School.

"I am humbled that my peers would vote me principal of the year," Simmons said. "All of my colleagues deserve to be principal of the year. All of us work so hard and put students first. So, I share this with all of my principal colleagues."

Burke County Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Larry Putnam surprised Simmons with the honor on the football field last Thursday night. "I was in shock," Simmons said of her immediate reaction.

Putnam also surprised Jim Childers as Assistant Principal of the Year at the game. Childers is the athletic director, assistant principal and an assistant football coach at East Burke High School.

The principals and assistant principals of Burke County Public Schools voted Simmons and Childers for the honors. Putnam said of both, "I see in Mrs. Simmons and Mr. Childers what our colleagues do and that is their dedication and passion for education. They are all about serving students and are all in at their schools. I look forward to working with them for many years to come and seeing their continued impact on our great school system."

Simmons is the first female principal at Freedom.

She said her oldest son, a sophomore at Winston-Salem State, called her last Thursday night after seeing on social media the news of her being named principal of the year.

"He told me how proud he is of me, and he said, 'You were right, Mom. You always said anything is possible.' He started repeating quotes I have told him all his life," Simmons said.

Some of those quotes include:

"When you write the story of your life, don't let anyone else hold the pen." (Harley Davidson ad); "It takes a village to raise a child." (African proverb); and "Everyone has a leader inside of them." (Steve Covey)

Simmons said she lives by these philosophies.

She said, "I love being around the kids. They keep me young. I love seeing them become leaders. It takes all of us — custodians, cafeteria staff, maintenance staff, teacher assistants, teachers. We all play an essential role in meeting the needs of these students, and I encourage all of us to grow leaders."

Simmons' path to leadership went through West Caldwell High School and Winston-Salem State University. It was at Winston-Salem that she met her husband, Monte. Monte, the head football coach and a PE teacher at West Iredell High School, played football for the Winston-Salem State, and Simmons was on the band flag and dance squad.

Simmons has a bachelor's degree in early childhood education and started her teaching career as a seventh-grade language arts teacher at Gamewell Middle School. She received her school administration master's degree from Gardner-Webb University. She was assistant principal at Hibriten and principal at West Lenoir School of Technology before coming to Burke County Public Schools in 2013. She has been principal at Walter Johnson and Table Rock middle schools and was named principal at Freedom this summer.

She thanked the faculty and staff at her previous school, Table Rock, and her new school, Freedom. "They are wonderful and have been so supportive, and they get credit for this honor of principal of the year, too."

On being named assistant principal of the year, Childers said, "I was really caught off guard in receiving this award. There are so many more deserving people in this school system for this award. I will say that I am truly blessed to work with the people I do. The entire staff at East Burke makes my job easy." Like Simmons, Childers, too, has roots in Caldwell County. He graduated from Hibriten High School and attended Catawba College. He played football, basketball and baseball and wrestled in high school and played football in college. He has bachelor's degrees in special education and physical education and has a master's degree in administration from Gardner-Webb University. Childers spent 12 years teaching special education for the Caldwell County School System. In 2001, he came to Burke County Public Schools serving as principal at East Burke Middle School and assistant principal at East Burke High School. He coached football at Hibriten and Catawba College and spent the last 16 years coaching



Dr. David Fonseca, assistant superintendent; Dr. Larry Putnam, superintendent; Felicia Simmons, principal Freedom High School; Casey Rogers, assistant principal and athletic director Freedom High School; Dr. Anna Moose, assistant principal Freedom High School; Jim Childers assistant principal and athletic director East Burke High School; Shane Mace, principal East Burke High School.

football at East Burke High.

Childers and his wife, Jill, have three sons, Brett, Chase and Matt. Brett and Chase are sophomores at East Burke High School, and Matt is a science teacher at East Burke Middle School.

## Supper is now served at Forest Hill

Forest Hill Elementary School's cafeteria will soon ring the bell for three meals a day. Burke County Public Schools and Chartwells has moved its Eat Well After the Bell supper program to Forest Hill Elementary, at 304 Ann St., Morganton, adding a late-afternoon/early-evening meal to its breakfast and lunch programs. The supper program is open to anyone in the community and is free to all children ages 3 to 18. The supper price is \$3 for adults. The hot meal is served from 3 to 6 p.m. each week on school days starting Thursday, Sept. 21. The program also includes a homework club and nutrition activities from 3 to 3:45 p.m. each day.



Supper is now served at Forest Hill

Eat Well After the Bell menu items include barbecue chicken, baked spaghetti and a pancake breakfast for supper, just to name a few. The program is federally funded through the USDA, and averaged 80 meals served at its previous location.

Burke County Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Larry Putnam said, "We are pleased to offer this additional meal to students and their families. We have a new afterschool program at Forest Hill and are excited that the community has access to a good, healthy, hot supper. Parents don't have to worry about cooking, and they can feed their children for free. It really is a relief on their pocketbooks and their time. We are grateful for our partnership with Chartwells to be able to take advantage of this opportunity through the USDA. Chartwells does a fantastic job serving students twice a day and now three times a day at our supper program location."

Putnam added that the free supper is a great opportunity for faith-based organizations in the area who hold services on Wednesday evenings to take advantage of the program and visit Forest Hill as a group for a meal.

Visit [www.burke.k12.nc.us](http://www.burke.k12.nc.us) to view the monthly supper menu.

Cheryl Shuffler is the Public Relations Officer for the Burke County Public School System.

*And thou shalt observe the feast of weeks, of the firstfruits of wheat harvest, and the feast of ingathering at the year's end. Exodus 34:22*

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