

# BLUE RIDGE CHRISTIAN NEWS

## *Salvation... Rewards on Earth!*



*He that handleth a matter wisely shall find good: and whoso trusteth in the Lord, happy is he. Proverbs 16:20*

SATURDAY 2-4 PM

THURSDAY 7-9 AM

WEDNESDAY 8-5 PM

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convenient. **We are.**

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MONDAY, 7:02 AM

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## BLUE RIDGE CHRISTIAN NEWS

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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

## 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  
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The Power of Jesus Christ!

## 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.

## 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

## 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

## 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!

## 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!

## 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

## 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!

## 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"

## 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"

## 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..."

## 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

## 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.  
Mica, 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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Ben Franklin, Liberty, and the Fifth Commandment

By Rev. Mark H. Creech

His mother was born in 1667, and his maternal grandfather was one of the first settlers of New England. His father owned a small business making candles and soaps. His family life was quite simple with an income just enough to support thirteen children.

This American statesman, printer, and inventor helped to draft the U.S. Constitution and signed the Declaration of Independence. In his Memoir, he doesn't say much about his beloved mother, but it's quite clear he deeply loved and respected her. Perhaps the most important thing he ever said about his mother was in the epitaph he wrote for the headstone of both his parents.

It reads:

Josiah Franklin and Abiah, his wife lie here interred.  
They lived lovingly together in wedlock  
Fifty-five years.  
Without an estate, or any gainful employment  
By constant labor and industry  
With God's blessing  
They maintained a large family comfortably  
And brought up thirteen children  
And seven grandchildren reputably.  
From this instance, reader,  
Be encouraged to diligence in thy calling  
And distrust not Providence,  
He was a pious and discreet man,  
She a discreet and virtuous woman.

Benjamin Franklin is renowned for his considerable wisdom. So much of what he said is woven into the fabric of Americana. Most of us have heard many of his sayings, but we might not have known their origin. It was Benjamin Franklin who said:

"Early to bed and early to rise  
makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise."  
"Well done is better than well  
said."  
"By failing to prepare, you are  
preparing to fail."  
"God helps those who help them-  
selves."  
"Honesty is the best policy."

These are just a few of the better-known ones. Franklin's name is also synonymous with liberty and freedom.

It was he who said, "Without freedom of thought, there can be no such thing as wisdom – and no such thing as public liberty without freedom of speech." It would do our colleges and universities well today to have these words erected on a monument prominently displayed on every campus.

"They who can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety," said Franklin.

Or what about this word from the man who helped establish liberty not only for this country but for much of the world: "Rebellion against tyrants is obedience to God."

Although there are exceptions to the rule, generally it's true that "apples don't fall far from the tree." You don't get great men without great parenting, and great people honor their parents.

Soon after the nation of Israel was delivered from slavery in Egypt, the Lord gave them the Ten Commandments.

The late Frank Pollard, a Southern Baptist pastor, denominational leader and author, has beautifully written:

"Never entertain the shallow notion that Moses was a preacher with ten suggestions for people who might want to be religious. He was the leader of a brand-new nation of people who were free for the first time in their lives. In the very positive preamble to the Ten Commandments, God said, 'I made you free. I want you to be free. Now here are ten principles which must be obeyed if you are to keep on being free.'"

The Fifth Commandment, "Honor thy father and thy mother" is essential to sustaining liberty. In fact, the whole commandment says, "*Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee*" (Exodus 20:12).

Say what you will, but this commandment has to do with national security. It's not a tremendous economy, military, educational system, or anything else that keeps a nation free. Liberty can only be sustained by character.

The Great Wall of China was constructed over 5,500 miles and made-up of mighty stones and brick to keep invaders out. No one, the Chinese thought, would ever be able to penetrate that wall. Yet over and again the enemy marched through because the gatekeepers could be bribed.



A strong, impenetrable nation is made from strong homes. These are the brick and stone that truly create a Great Wall that not only keep out invaders, but also extinguish the enemies from within – enemies unawares.

It's a people who give honor and respect to their mothers and fathers throughout childhood and into adulthood who also become an honorable and respectable people. They become a shining city on a hill for whole the world to see.

"Only a virtuous people are capable of freedom," said Franklin. "As nations become corrupt and vicious, they have more need of masters." No doubt this is also the reason Franklin in his wisdom commended the study of the Bible in every house as a "principle support of virtue, morality, and civil liberty."

And what does the Bible say? It says, "*Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee*" (Exodus 20:12).

Happy Mother and Father's Day

Some of the information regarding Benjamin Franklin's family life was taken from "Mothers: 100 Mothers of the Famous and the Infamous," Paddington Press LTD, 1976

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

Sample Day Trip

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Live Music By Jim Quick & Coastline

42nd Annual Waldensian Festival

August 11 & August 12, 2017

Live music, vendors, beer & wine, car show



## The Rotary of Spruce Pine

### Hurricane Matthew Relief

By Doug Sudduth  
Mitchell County

Rotarian Dr. Marvin Walker, of Appalachian Eye Associates, spoke to the Rotary Club of Spruce Pine at its regular meeting Thursday, May 11, about his recent Hurricane Matthew relief trip to Fayetteville.

"Although seven months have passed, the recovery and rebuild from Hurricane Matthew are still very much ongoing," Walker said. "So, this past week a group representing our church and our community traveled to Fayetteville to spend a week doing what we could to try to help."

The group put roofs on two houses – one belonging to a bed-ridden woman with three grown, low-functioning autistic children and the second belonging to a widow with one of her two children living at home.

"More people should be hearing about the devastation," Walker said.

The group has another relief trip planned this coming November to a destination that has not been determined.

Photos by Rotarian Brandon Roberts



Rotary Club of Spruce Pine President Alex Glover pins a Rotary Star to Rotarian Dr. Marvin Walker in recognition of his Hurricane Matthew relief trip to Fayetteville.



Rotarian Dr. Marvin Walker tells about his recent Hurricane Matthew relief trip to Fayetteville.

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

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# Allen's Offerings

**Witness**  
By Allen Buchanan  
Mitchell County

"...Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen." Does this sound familiar to you? It should. It comes from Matthew 28:18-20 and is commonly known as "The Great Commission".

After high school, I went to Isothermal Community College in Spindale, NC and graduated with an Associate Degree in Business Administration. I worked several small jobs and decided to try community college again. This time I transferred my credits to McDowell to work on an Associate of Arts Degree in Commercial Graphics. I have always had a passion for drawing much more than wanting a career in business.

Since age 8, I've been known as a preacher's kid. You've all heard the jokes? I was never ashamed of being a PK. I also have had Muscular Dystrophy since birth which was apparent in the way I got around. I despised the peer pressure associated with classmates not understanding my handicap and being labelled a PK. While in college the second time, I decided that I wasn't going to tell anyone that I was a preacher's kid and avoided discussion relating to my family. I felt that my relationship with Jesus should be based on my testimony and not my dad's. By doing so, I felt that reason alone was why I had friends! Don't get me wrong, I had awesome friends growing up with fellow classmates and teachers at Ledger Elementary School. High School was much different. Some accepted me but most didn't understand, so I was lonely too often.

With the end of summer rapidly approaching, I returned to McDowell for Fall Registration. As I was finishing up, a fellow classmate, Tracy, asked if she could talk to me. The first thing I noticed about her was a glow. She lived a much different life than I, by hanging out with people who drank alcohol and took drugs. As she told me about her summer, she shared how she had given her life to Jesus and now He was her Savior and Lord. That was enough to cause anyone to "glow".

Tracy told me that she had observed my attitude and caring for others and suspected something was different, but couldn't figure it out. She said I had influenced her to seek out a different approach to life and that had led her to Jesus. Wow! All my life I had wanted to lead someone to Jesus. I never thought I knew how. I was afraid to try because I didn't want to fail. My experience with Tracy had given me new hope. I prayed for other witnessing opportunities. I wanted to obey Jesus' commandment which He laid out in Matthew 28:16-20.

On my journey through life, I've had other opportunities to share Jesus. I'm sad to say my witnessing never got instant results. Has that stopped me? No sir! I press on. I've been told to stay away, it's none of my concern. That cuts deeply when speaking to a relative. Folks that I thought were friends tell me "in due time" or that they are "Christians in the Church of Life" and they don't need anything else. I've met people with more Bible knowledge than scholars and yet they don't know the Master. As long as I continue to "Go and teach" while praying and with a willing heart, I'm hoping to sow seeds.

"...God gave the increase. So then neither is he that planteth anything, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase." I Corinthians 3: 6-7

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



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Lessons Of The Opioid Addiction Epidemic

E. Blake Fagan, Guest columnist  
Mitchell and Yancey County

Opioids, which include Oxycontin, Percocet, Vicodin and morphine, are powerful painkillers. In the past, opioids were mainly used for patients with cancer pain, at the end of life, or after major surgery. But starting about 20 years ago, there was a big push for doctors to prescribe opioids for acute and chronic pain of all types, such as headaches, fibromyalgia, arthritis and back pain.

At the same time, doctors were told, incorrectly, that these medications were not addictive. As a matter of fact, doctors were told that less than 1 percent of patients on long-term opioid therapy became addicted or dependent on the medications. Furthermore, starting patients on these medications, doctors were told, would return them to normal function. They would get their lives back.

But after prescribing opioids to millions of patients for noncancer pain, we have learned the following: These medications ARE addictive. One third of patients prescribed opioids for 2 months or more — just 2 months — become addicted or dependent on the medications.

Moreover, when family members of these patients are polled, they believe that even a larger percentage of patients on long term opioids are addicted or dependent on the medication — 50 percent instead of 33 percent. Less than 25 percent of patients on long-term opioids return to full employment, so they are not the cure-all we were promised.

If you are a young person (younger than 25) and take an opioid for any reason — after a surgery, tooth extraction, etc. — you are 50 percent more likely to become addicted in your lifetime. The young brain should not be exposed to opiates unless absolutely necessary.

Now, pain is very personal and emotional for many people. There are many people whose lives have been changed for the better because of opioid therapy, but the above statistics are sobering.

Furthermore, opioid medications and their cousin, heroin, have led to a surge in overdoses and overdose deaths. Deaths from opioids and heroin now surpass deaths from car wrecks, homicide or suicide in this country. It is a national and local crisis.

Because of evolving understanding of opioid pain medications and the drastic increase in people living with addiction, and overdose deaths, providers are becoming more cautious about prescribing these medications.

The community response to opioids  
Local information supplied by Jim Haaga, MD

A recent article in this paper explored the reasons for the opioid crisis and the serious potential for addiction with the use of opioids (hydrocodone, oxycodone and others). Medical providers have become acutely aware of the crisis because of the exponential rate of opioid overdoses and overdose deaths in our community.

However, there is hope. Many individuals and organizations in WNC have been responding to this issue for years, but now there are collective, region-wide responses to this crisis. What are some of the actions these coalitions are taking?

In Mitchell and Yancey Counties, meetings have been held for the past eight years as the Mitchell Yancey Substance Abuse Task Force (MYSATF) has developed. This group has worked under the Graham Children's Health Services, now renamed "Partners Aligned Toward Health" or "PATH". Currently leading the MYSATF are Jeff Spargo, program coordinator, Schell McCall, director of PATH, and Chairperson, Jessica Farley, RN, of the Toe River Health District.

Prevention of substance abuse is a key goal of the MYSATF. An after-school program in both counties, STAR for middle schoolers in Mitchell, and the Cougar Fit Club for high school students in Yancey County, have been working for several years to give a group of students healthy and constructive habits and lifestyles. Working with the Yancey program since the beginning have been Dan Graham, retired Mountain Heritage counselor and Donna Banks, current MHHS counselor. A recent grant secured by the task force has enabled the hiring of a new Youth Team Advisor, Terri Leiser, who, along with other task force members are starting projects like Youth-2-Youth, in which a club format will be used by youth to learn teach their friends about the importance of staying "drug free". A summer youth activity guide is being published also to help in constructive alternatives to boredom or activities that might lead a young person to experiment with drugs. It can be found at [www.pathwnc.org](http://www.pathwnc.org).

Mechelle Akers, Burnsville Ingles pharmacist and former chair of the MYSATF has guided many efforts of the task force and encouraged her fellow pharmacists to monitor patients' opioid use, counsel them and to help keep prescribers aware when they see a potential problem. She also led in many "drug take back days" and establishment of permanent drop off boxes in both counties sheriff's offices for excess/outdated prescription medications of any kind.

Mental health and substance abuse counselors, through RHA and other practices, work daily with community members who struggle with addiction and related mental health problems.

Faith leaders are now attending the MYSATF meetings and helping to increase awareness in their congregations, letting them know that help is available where needed for themselves and their loved ones.

Sheriff and police department officers in both counties have been extremely involved in attending the meetings of the task force. They have been trained in the use of the potentially life-saving medication Naloxone (Narcan) for use in drug overdoses, where they may often be the first person on the scene. They are working daily to reduce the availability of illicit substances.

In the broader area, the Buncombe County Department of Health and Human Services is leading an effort to build a coalition of providers in Buncombe



County, including community clinics and the hospital, to tackle this problem. VAYA Health (formerly Smoky Mountain LME), a regional health organization helping those with behavioral health and intellectual or development disabilities, is leading the effort to build a regional coalition to attack this problem for the 23 westernmost counties.

The physicians and the medical community are re-training themselves to reduce the flow of inappropriate opiates from providers to patients. Over the years, providers have been misinformed about the addictive nature of opioids. Providers are increasingly in agreement that inappropriate opioid prescribing needs to be curtailed. MAHEC is offering online and live in-person educational courses to providers in our communities about appropriate opiate prescribing.

Physicians and the medical community are also working on prevention. We are talking to pharmacists, emergency department providers, and chronic pain and addiction specialists about dispensing naloxone, a medication that reverses the effects of an opioid overdose to patients at risk of overdose. There are safer medications ("medication assisted therapy", or MAT) available to "de-tox" patients who are addicted to opioids. More providers are being trained in MAT to help stabilize patients in their addiction and get them off of heroin. Furthermore, several organizations have been talking to schools and community groups about the dangers of taking someone else's medications and the use of illicit drugs.

Patient engagement is key. Locking up medications can keep them out of the hands where they are not needed. Using medication only as prescribed, and safely discarding medication, especially pain medications, when they are no longer needed, is vital. If patients think they need a smaller amount of pain medication than their physician or dentist is prescribing, they can discuss this matter, with the prescriber and ask for a smaller amount. This is especially true if a controlled substance is being prescribed for a young person.

A Substance Abuse Resource Guide for Yancey and Mitchell Counties has been published yearly for the past 5 years and has information on how to obtain treatment. This is available at the Path website, [pathwnc.org](http://pathwnc.org). This website, as well as a Facebook page has more information, including how to get involved in the local effort.

*E. Blake Fagan is a family physician and the chief education officer at the Mountain Area Health Education Center. He received his medical degree from Vanderbilt University and is a graduate of MAHEC's Family Medicine Residency Program in Asheville. He is a Western Carolina Medical Society board member.*

**(We continue to focus on many drug issues in our reader area. We have received a request from a doctor associated with the Mission System that is more than willing to come to churches or other faith based organizations to talk about the opioid problem in the area.**

**Dr. Blake Fagan with MAHEC is asking for communication between the two groups and Jim Haaga, emergency room doctor in Spruce Pine is coordinating this effort. If anyone is interested, contact us at Blue Ridge Christian News ([barbarah@brcnews.com](mailto:barbarah@brcnews.com)) 828-688-3644 or Jim Haaga ([jmhaaga@frontier.com](mailto:jmhaaga@frontier.com)) . Please take advantage of this as drugs are a major player in all aspects of our community life.)**



The Joy of Salvation,  
Here on Earth

By Doug Harrell

We most often think of the joy of salvation being in the eternal realm but I truly believe there is joy here in our earthly home that only comes with salvation. God's word is so true when it states that our lives are as vapor here on this earth, especially when you reach the age that some of us have been fortunate to reach. Our lives here on earth can be a living hell or I do believe that we can have a little taste of heaven here on earth.

What really makes the difference in our earthly walk? Is it money?, Is it fame?, Is it possessions? I really don't think it is any of these, even though having enough does contribute to our sense of security. As our children were growing up they were preached to constantly about getting a case of the DRT's, that stands for "Doing Right Things". When we get up each morning and look in the mirror, who do we see? We know if we have been good or bad, done good things or bad things, and we will feel either good or bad, depending to a large degree on the decisions we are making. A great deal of happiness comes from how we see ourselves, our attitude is 98% of our happiness, and in most situations, our attitude is the result of our actions.

Our actions come as a result of the decisions we make each and every day of our lives, and those decisions are a result of our moral beliefs. Our moral beliefs are a result of our relationship with our Heavenly Father. When we put off the old man and put on the new we become a new creature. *"If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus: That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness."* Ephesians 4:21-24

When you follow the teaching of Christ, you will make the decisions that make for heaven here on earth. That does not mean that there will not be many challenges and hardships here on earth, but you will be given the strength to handle them. You will have the ability to feel secure in the relationship that surpasses all other relationships.

Your relationships here on earth will be based on truth and honesty. Our divorce rate would be slashed if couples would truly turn their relationship over to the Lord and make him the guiding light. There is a piece of heaven in a great marriage relationship based on the principles of God. There would be an abundance of jail cells available if the teachings of our Lord were followed. We, as parents, need to teach, preach and illustrate to our children each day the difference that our lives will have if we "Do the Right Things" daily. We will truly have heaven or hell here on earth, depending on our decisions day to day. The absolute guide to use is the true word of our Lord and Savior and in our unswaying relationship with Jesus Christ our redeemer.

*"For the day of the Lord is near upon all the heathen: as thou hast done, it shall be done unto thee: thy reward shall return upon thine own head."* Obadiah 1:15

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.



Use your second chance to get to know God

Q: I just got out of the hospital after a bad car wreck. The police said they were surprised I wasn't killed. I've never given God much thought. Is God trying to tell me something? — W.W.

A: Yes, God certainly is trying to tell you something — and my prayer is that you won't ignore it! The Bible says, *"If anyone hears the trumpet but does not heed the warning ... their blood will be on their own head"* (Ezekiel 33:4).

What is God saying to you through this experience? First, He is reminding you of the brevity of life. Yes, your life was spared, and for that I am very thankful. But what if it had not been spared? And in any case, some day you will die and enter God's presence, even if it's many years from now. Life is short, and the time to prepare for eternity is now.

But I believe God is also trying to tell you of His love for you. So far in life you have ignored Him — but He has not ignored you! He loves you — and the proof isn't only that He spared your life on this occasion, but that His Son, Jesus Christ, gave His life for you. He did this so you could be forgiven of your sins and go to be with Him in Heaven forever.

By a simple prayer of faith thank God for sparing your life, and then ask Jesus Christ to come into your heart and become the center of your life. Then seek out a church where you can grow in your faith and find friends who will help you spiritually. God's word is for you: *"God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us"* (Romans 5:8).



Trouble getting into the Bible? Try this as a starting point

Q: One of my New Year's resolutions was to read through the Bible. Well, I got started in Genesis, but I only lasted a few weeks. I just couldn't get interested in things that happened to people thousands of years ago. What am I missing? — Mrs. J.F.

A: One thing you're missing is an opportunity to learn more about God and His will for our lives. If we are ignorant of God's Word, we'll always be ignorant of God's will.

Yes, the Bible tells about things that happened thousands of years ago, and these may seem strange or irrelevant to us. But God does not change, and neither does our human nature — and just as God worked in the lives of people then, He wants to work in our lives today. They lived in a different world — and yet they had the same problems and doubts we have. The Bible says concerning them, *"These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us"* (1 Corinthians 10:11).

But let me suggest that you're also missing something else: a practical plan for unlocking the Bible's treasures. Instead of starting at the beginning (as we do with other books), I suggest you start at the center — that is, with one of the Gospels that tell us about Jesus Christ (I often suggest John). He is the Bible's center; the Old Testament points forward to Him, and the New Testament tells us about Him. You can discover other parts of the Bible later.

Ask God to help you as you read — not only to understand what is happening in a particular passage, but what it means for your life today. May Job's attitude become yours: *"I have treasured the words of his mouth more than my daily bread"* (Job 23:12).



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## Sermon on the Mount

Pastor Terry Cheek Th.D.  
McDowell County



Thanks for returning to another publication of "The Blue Ridge Christian News" and our article "The Inspiring Word".

For this publication of the BRCN we will continue our study of God's word and the Lord's Sermon on the Mount. In May, we looked at what has been affectionately referred to as the golden rule. Many have spoken to me about how God's word spoke to them from last month's article and I'm truly humbled that God will use it to touch hearts and lives. That is truly an answered prayer. You see, before I write each article I pray about the content, then before I sent it to the BRCN staff I pray again that God will use it to bring folks closer to Him and for His glory. God does answer prayer! I wanted to give testimony of how He uses those who submit themselves to His work and spreading His gospel.

For June let's take our Bible and turn to Matthew 7:13-14 where we read: "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: (14) Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." Many of today's popular study Bibles lump these verses into a passage with verse 12 as part of the Christ's teaching on the character of those who follow Him. I tend to agree with some of the older scholars and theologians, I lean more toward a separation. I see this passage speaking to us about salvation.

The Pharisees and religious crowd of Jesus day mixed no words about their feelings regarding who would get into heaven. Only those with blood lineage. There was a problem, this blood lineage was attributed to Abraham and not Jesus. Jesus taught us a simpler truth and in our passage, we hear Him describe it as a strait gate.

Not only did Jesus teaching contrast the views of the religious elite of His day, His teaching contrasts the contemporary views of the religious elite living today. In Romans 4:16 we find assurance that salvation comes only through faith in Jesus Christ. That faith is the lineage of Abraham which makes every born again Christian descendants of Abraham's seed. If nothing else was written that alone should bring us to humble praise of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I find it eerily strange that during Jesus day the orthodox Jew claimed to have the final word on who would inherit the kingdom of God. The Scribe, Pharisee, Sadducee, Doctor and Lawyer; all were looked up to in admiration, because they were expected to have and communicate the truth of God's word. Yes, they possessed academic knowledge, but their heart was far from God. They not only walked through the wide gate, they deliberately led others in the same direction. Unfortunately, the very same thing is happening in places of worship today.



The well-educated religious leaders in our places of worship are giving messages that proclaim salvation without the blood of Christ. We too, often hear messages of prosperity, passion, prestige and the all-inclusive statement that God will never send anyone to hell, that all will be saved. We are told the Bible contains error and it isn't inspired by the Holy Spirit. We are told same sex marriage is accepted by God just as much as traditional marriage. The liberal and legalistic religious pendulum is swinging just as wide today as it was when Jesus spoke these words.

Couple the width of liberal and legalistic religion with the movement of liberal socialistic government imposing their agenda through judicial overreach, executive action and compensated protest, and you find a very wide gate for many to walk through. A gate which leads to destruction and an eternal hell.

I thank God, the Church isn't that place of worship, it's a heart of worship! A heart which is found in only one place, it exists only in those who have experienced Romans 10:9-10 "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. (10) For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." The Lord tells us plainly there are few that will find this gate, though it is strait and narrow it is in plain sight and wide open. Have you found it? There are Bible believing Churches in this area with pastors who preach the word of God as inerrant and infallible, with compassion yet without compromise. You're invited to begin with us at Calvary Missionary Baptist Church at 4548 NC-226, Marion NC. We are one of several congregations found within the pages of the BRCN. And, don't forget to read all the articles in the BRCN, God will touch your heart in ways you never imagined. Until next time may God keep you firmly in His grip!

*Terry Cheek is Pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Marion.*



Daddy, This Is The Life . . .

By Pastor Chris Rathbone  
Mitchell County

Sometimes there are moments in our lives that God uses to speak to us. Many of these instances are to remind us of what the important things in life are all about.

About couple of years ago I had lifted a riding mower up to work on the blades and had strained my back. (We do these things and then our body tells us a couple of days later that we shouldn't have.) I had a lot of reading to finish for a couple of classes at school so I placed some pillows on the bed so I could recline on the bed without my back bothering me so much. Probably an hour had passed when the door to the bedroom opened and in comes Reuben, about 4 years old at the time, and crawled up on the bed. We as parents have conditioned ourselves (especially with young children who tend to make a lot of noise) to tune out a lot of the noise around us so we can concentrate on what we are doing. This time my attention was pulled away from the book quite suddenly.

Reuben came in quietly. He never spoke a word to begin with. Sometimes the boys ask if I am finished or if I will wrestle or play with them. Most of the time unfortunately, my response is usually "Not right now, I have to do this or finish that." Reuben proceeded to position some pillows next to me. He silently finished putting the pillows in place and reclined right next to me with his side touching mine. He placed his hands behind his head and said, "Daddy, this is the life. Spending time with my Daddy, this is the life."

I could hardly stop myself from crying! What this made me realize was that he wanted to spend time with me. Even if it wasn't wrestling, playing, or something else he would rather be doing, he just wanted to be with me. My mind flashed back suddenly to all the times I said "No", or "I don't have time", or "I can't right now". Even if it wasn't going to be on Reuben's terms or his ideal situation, he just wanted to spend time with me.

This message is for Dads, especially those with young children. There are a lot of things we may "need" to get done, but those things are not as important as spending time with our children. Our kids will not remember how great we kept the lawn looking, but the times we played ball with them on it. They won't remember that big stringer of fish we brought home, but the first fish they caught with Daddy standing next to them. They probably won't even remember all the toys we bought them, but they will remember the time we took to get in the living room floor and play cars with them.

Paul wrote in Colossians 3:21 *Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged.* As I studied this verse I learned that the word "provoke" means to stimulate, especially to anger. The ideal is to influence in a negative way. This verse, according to Strong's Concordance is the only time the word "discourage" is used in the New Testament (KJV). It means to be spiritless, disheartened, or dismayed. This simply means "Do not break their spirit."

How many times children come up to their Daddy with a high expectation only to get an answer that takes the smile from their face or causes them to walk away with their head hung down or even with tears in their eyes because Daddy doesn't have time. I have seen this disappointment in the eyes of my own boys. My heart is convicted to think that when I don't take time



for them they are walking away with a broken spirit thinking that their Daddy doesn't want to spend time with them.

We need to understand that new clothes, new video games, new toys, or just some expensive gift is not what our children need. What our children need is us. They need to know that they mean more to us than a job, a hobby, or our own selves. When they look at us, they should see a model of their Heavenly Father before them. Our kids need to know that they are loved unconditionally, cared for, protected and provided for by an earthly father who shows them that they are important to him. We have the responsibility of raising the next generation of parents. What they learn from us is what they will most likely pass on to their children and we can't teach them if we aren't with them! The most valuable gift we can share with our kids besides Christ is our time. They need to know that when their Daddy is with them he believes that "This is the life. Spending time with my children, this is the life!"

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



the wife has opinions, ideas, desires, requests and she makes them known to her mate.

On any sports team or any other team, someone has to make the final decision about certain matters. The one who leads the team must be supported or no progress will be made. Instead, there will be confusion and frustration that will ensue.

Submission Has to Do with Attitude

It is not just her actions that matter. Submitting should not be a drudgery, but rather a delight. Let me stress again, the more the husband is what he ought to be, the easier it is for the wife to put herself under his authority. Doing what God tells us to do ought not be a matter of drudgery, neither should it be done with a spirit of heaviness. She should submit cheerfully to her husband knowing she is doing the will of God as she does so.

When a husband commands his wife to do something that is contrary to what God says, then she has a right to refuse to submit.

Submission Should Be Wide-ranging

According to Ephesians 5:24, the submission of the wife to the husband is compared to the church being subject to Christ. She is to be subject to her husband in everything. She is to obey him in all, but that which contradicts the Word of God.

God is able to give strength to all of those wives who want to do what the Lord wants them to do in regard to their husbands. Ephesians 3:16 says, "That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man."

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



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Dear Graduate

By David Burleson  
Avery County

It is with great pleasure and honor that I congratulate you—the class of 2017. You accepted the challenge of a high school education, and now you are feeling the exhilaration of victory. As you celebrate this great milestone in your life, please know that I am proud of each of you for your dedication, your perseverance, your energy, and your determination to reach this memorable day.

You have passed one of the many great tests of life. Since kindergarten you have been dedicated to the task of getting an education. Each step of the way, loving parents and committed educators have provided you with the guidance you have needed. You have had vision; you have been focused in accomplishing your dream; and you never lost sight of the importance of learning.

You have persevered. Nothing in the world can take the place of persistence. During your educational career you have had to overcome many obstacles to stay in school and to give your own personal best. There have been times you wanted to give up but did not. You have held fast to your plans and goals.

Throughout your educational career, you have had an energy—a passion for living and learning. As such, you have successfully fulfilled many responsibilities as the student, the academician, the athlete, the leader, the worker, the musician, the artist, the son/daughter, the brother/sister, and the giver to the community.

It has been said, "The future belongs to those who believe in their dreams." You have been determined to make your dreams reality through plans, goals, and actions. You have taken risks and believed in yourself. You have wanted more for your life.

Already you have in place the tools to meet the challenges you will face and other milestones you will experience. As you prepare for and experience new eras of learning and living, I charge each of you to keep in your mind and close to your heart your dedication, perseverance, energy, determination, and strong family and community ties.

May God richly bless you and keep you all the days of your life.

David Burleson is Superintendent of the Avery County Schools



Looking Back at a Good Harvest  
A Father's Father

By Jacob Willis  
Yancey County

*"Father to the fatherless, defender of widows – this is God, whose dwelling is holy. God places the lonely in families; He sets the prisoners free and gives them joy. But He makes the rebellious live in a sun-scorched land."*  
(Psalm 68:5-6)



Many times during the life of a Father you may feel that your contribution is misunderstood, at best, and at worst just not appreciated. Sometimes it is easy to lose sight of the goal of Fatherhood, which is to raise children of a particular kind.

When we say a particular kind, we are specifically meaning Christ like. Children who become contributors to society by their: love, meekness, generosity, kindness, and compassion. People of a peculiar kind as Peter says to the church in 1 Peter 2:9 (KJV) *9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.* This is the basis for Fatherhood, to mold children into the image of God. Therefore, by the power of God's Spirit and the steady hand of an earthly Father, we equip our children for the adventure that is life. This is truly no small task, and as we embark on the rearing of children we need God's help. Psalm 68: (5-6) points to three traits of a successful Father.

A successful Father is one who loves unconditionally. Successful Fathers love no matter what. They love their children not based on performance, but based on choice. When the child fails (and they will) a successful Father nurtures and admonishes Ephesians 6:4. Nurture means to gently show the way (with an attitude of love), admonish means to mildly rebuke. It can be hard to find balance between the two, but when you learn not to take the offense of your child personally, but rather view it as a teaching opportunity, then you are behaving like God. God is a Father to the Fatherless. In other words he is choosing to love, and that is the deepest kind of love, which has the potential for the deepest impact. His love never fails. He loves us no matter what.

A successful Father liberates His children. He "sets the prisoners free". How do I accomplish that as a Father? When I love them apart from their performance it sets them free. The greatest thing a Father can do for a child is believe in them. Believe in them even when they are messing up, from the time they are young till they are old. We need to believe in our children and God's plan for their lives. Many times as parents we can circumvent God's plan for our kids; by pushing them to be something they are not, by holding them back because we are afraid they will fail (embarrassing us or them), and lastly by being critical of their success. As a Father we need to be encouragers. We need to be the biggest fan of our kids there is. We need to be supportive of their goals even when we don't like them. We need to set them free. Free to live apart from our own skewed expectations. Free to potentially fail, because my Dad will love me no matter what.

A successful Father teaches his kids about joy. Joy is different than happiness. Joy isn't dependent on people, circumstances, or things. Joy can be found in example. Here is where the rubber meets the road in parenting, so to speak. If my kids see me complaining about work, their Mother, the yard work, or Pastors and leaders; chances are they won't become positive joyous people. When we are joyous apart from outcomes we demonstrate to our children the sovereignty of God. We teach them that our hope isn't in paychecks and people, but in God. When they grow up hopefully they say, "Dad trusted God for his joy and peace". Being a Godly example of sacrificial love works wonders in the lives of children.

A successful Father is a defender of what is right. In this case the widow. It is very important in our society to teach boys, especially,



how to treat women. It is the Father's responsibility to teach His son how to protect marginalized people. It is important children see them valued. A Father who protects the marginalized leaves a great legacy for His children. In every man there is a hero, be that guy for your kids.

Finally, what can be said to the Dad who is in the trenches, worn out, and feeling devalued? Yancey Hospice gives me a unique opportunity to observe people at the end of life and I want to leave you with these final observations. Those teenagers do grow up. It may seem that they don't hear a word you say, but soon they will be hanging on your every word. You will go from being dumb to brilliant, almost overnight. Also, those babies won't need you forever. It may seem that you don't get sleep and you are secondary to this new one, but they will grow up. In fact they grow up too fast and they are gone. This, by the way is your goal. You want your child to grow into a leader and defender of the right. The greatest gift is a dying Father surrounded by the fruits of His labor, Godly children.

Jacob Willis is an ordained pastor and Bereavement Coordinator for Yancey County Hospice. You may contact him at [jacobw@hospiceofyancey.org](mailto:jacobw@hospiceofyancey.org).

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No Regrets Family Ministry:  
The Death of Doctrine

By Pastor Dean Honeycutt  
Mitchell County

When asked if the Bible is the only guiding force for relevant truth, many people will thumb their nose at the Bible and say the Bible is only one of many books for spiritual and moral truth. The Bible has been marginalized in our society and is no longer considered the number one source for Divine revelation. If the Bible is considered of equal or even less value than other religious books then what it teaches has no more relevance than a Sports Illustrated Magazine. If, we as Christians in our effort to embrace the world through ecumenical movements lay down our doctrinal distinction to keep from being offensive then we are like the man who built his house upon the sand. Early New Testament churches and Christians were distinguished by what they believed and taught; in Acts 17 they are described as those who have turned the world upside down. Eleven of the Apostles, Paul, and many of the Apostolic fathers were martyred for the sake of the Gospel and the teachings of Scripture. Doctrine that does not describe who you are and what you believe is no doctrine at all. Hence we see the death of doctrine.

In our tolerant-driven society we are asked to lay down the very foundations that our faith is built upon. As noted above the three contributing factors to the death of doctrine are one, the marginalization of the Bible, two, the failure to teach Biblical doctrine, and three, the vast ecumenical movements throughout the world today. One cannot have an ecumenical gathering of religions without laying aside the very doctrines that distinguish us. The doctrines that we hold dear as believers are the very truths that others find offensive. In order to be politically correct or religiously tolerant many find it is easier to compromise rather than be true to doctrine. It will be through doctrinal deception that Satan will use in the end times, the very thing Jesus warned about in Matthew 24. Did you know that many chaplains cannot pray in Jesus name because praying in Jesus name is offensive to many other religious beliefs? Be very careful, it will be through religious deception and a great cry for peace that the anti-christ will make a peace treaty with Israel. (Daniel 9:27, Matthew 24:15, II Thessalonians 2, Revelations 13:5) For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. 1 Thess. 5:3 (KJV) Jesus said in Matthew 10:34 that he "did not come to send peace on earth, but a sword"; in other words the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the teachings of the Bible are offensive to those who do not love God. The church does not intentionally try to be offensive, and we cannot lay aside doctrine just to get along with the world. Remember, we are to be in the world but not of the world.

Jesus said "I will build my church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it." Praise the Lord the Bible teaches in Ephesians 5 that Christ loved the Church and Gave Himself for it. "26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish." Eph 5:26-27 (KJV). I realize that God will protect His church, and the Word of God will prevail with or without me. However, I do believe as a New Testament Christian we have the responsibility to uphold the foundations of our faith.

Doctrine is what the Bible teaches to be true. It comes from the Greek didakhay which means to teach; therefore doctrine is the truths of scripture. Jesus said "I am truth". This means that everything scripture says about Jesus is true and the revelation of Jesus Christ is directly from God the Father. Jesus said "My doctrine is not mine, but His that sent me. If any man will do His will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself." Jesus confirmed this when he said "If you continue in my word, then are you my disciples indeed; and you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free." I thank the Lord that the Bible is completely trustworthy and the only source of Divine revelation and knowledge of the Holy. All other so called religious books are false teachings and cannot be compared to God's Holy Word. A few examples of important Bible doctrine are:

- 1. The Bible is without error and inspired by God.
- 2. Trinity is one God. God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit. Three in One.
- 3. God created from nothing everything in 6 days.
- 4. The virgin Birth of Christ. The sinless Son of God.
- 5. The sacrifice of Jesus on the cross atoned for all sin.
- 6. The bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- 7. Salvation and the promise of eternal life is in repentance and faith in Christ alone. Saved by grace through faith.
- 8. Upon Salvation every believer is baptized with The Holy Spirit and gifted to serve the Church.
- 9. The rapture of the Church (Bride of Christ)
- 10. Judgment seat of Christ.
- 11. The Second Coming of Christ to earth.
- 12. Eternal punishment in hell
- 13. Eternal Life in Heaven. (new heaven and new earth)

These are just a few truths we hold dear as believers. Thank the Lord for churches and Pastors who continue to teach Bible doctrine. I want to encourage you to teach these truths to your children and ground them in the Word of God because their faith will be challenged like never before. If you do this you will have "No Regrets" when you stand before Him one day.

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.



A Meditation

Healing

By Timothy Eller  
McDowell County

I have found that we often fail to understand healing within the context of the scriptures. Peter explains it better than anyone else. He says in past tense by His stripes ye were healed. The focus and my emphasis would be on the word were. It does not say could be, or at some point in the future that you could be. He says that we were.



1 Peter 2:24 *Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.*

Why did Peter use the word were? Often people are willing to believe that what Jesus did on the cross paid for our sins. However, people often fail to realize that what he did in Pilate's Hall paid for our healing. Just like the blood paid for our sins it also paid for our healing. So we don't have to beg for our healing or wait until it manifests, we just accept what he did for us over 2,000 years ago.

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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Every Mountain Has Two Sides

By Tim Tron  
Burke County

*"His foundation is in the holy mountains." -Psalm 87:1*  
For every mountain has two sides, like every story has two tales.

He stood looking as the sunset washed against the granite walls making the monolith perpetuate itself against an azure sky. Long shadows cast about where he stood as the nearby peaks already beckoned the coming night. He had not seen Grandfather from this angle before, facing east. Heretofore, his sunsets were always on his eastern side facing west. Tonight, he was on the other side, in more ways than one.

A few feet from where the man stood, the entrance sign to the Hugh Chapman Center began to flicker, attempting to illuminate the letters. The beautiful YMCA facility set against the backdrop of Grandfather Mountain was a picture postcard scene, one which all of Avery County could be proud. A chill began to blow across the collar of his sports coat reminding him that he had not dressed for the duty to which he was now assigned; standing guard at the entrance of the High School Prom. As the temperature dropped and the sun slid behind distant peaks, his mind began to wander.

Ironically, even after all these years, this would be his first Prom...ever. Across the many miles of life, the soul hath traveled.  
In his youth, he sought to climb the mountain before him, the beast in his



mind's eye, the obstacle in his path which prevented him from becoming what he thought he was meant to be. There were so many unknowns. The mountain before him in his youth was shadowed from the sun, dark and ominous; he seemed to face another uphill battle around every corner he turned. The child fought against himself as much as he clashed against the world around him. Many had sought to help him along his way, and as such, he was no stranger to the Word. Even in the midst of all the struggles, he heard the preacher tell his congregation one Sunday that if you wanted to find a home in eternity, you needed to find the Lord; and at the tender age of 13, he was saved. Yet, like those finding salvation in their youth, he seemed to lose his way. As a teen, he continued to try to run from God, making bad choice after bad choice, while many times being saved only by the grace of God. However, with time, and the prayers of those who loved him, he eventually found his path, the one that leads to the top; success would eventually be within his grasp.

Accolade after another began to pour in when he finally made something of his life. From nothing to something, this was his story; the world was in his pocket, or so he thought.

One day, after having achieved the summit, the man realized he was still bound to his earthly domain, stuck in a rut from which there was little escape. What once seemed to be the prize had now become his prison. Distracted with denial he had chosen incorrectly, he began to question where he now stood in life. His thoughts turned to his salvation and what it all had meant.

Still the prayers were lifted on his behalf, and at last, his own were added to the chorus.

*"Many are called, but few are chosen..."*

When the realization of who he had become, and who he served, the man realized the truth; he had been following the wrong master, for God was not the center of his life. Seeking answers from the only place he knew, the man turned to the Word of God. In the corner of the bookshelf, he found the dust covered volume he had so long neglected. When he opened it, there seemed to be a voice speaking from within, *"I AM with you."* Page after page, the light began to shine upon where he must go and what he must do. He was finally awakening to what God had called him to be; following Him, the creator of all, God the Father.

A new world began to open before the man, and with the new world, he found new friends and a new beginning. The prison in which he thought he had been trapped suddenly released him and the mountain of debt was dissolved; the shackles of his life had been removed like Paul and Silas's; God had set him free. But where do you go when you are finally freed from someplace you never thought you would escape, let alone survive?

You must begin life anew.

Once the man set out upon his new journey in life, he soon realized, he was now back in the deepest, darkest valley, far below that distant mountain top. He was starting over, like a babe in the woods. Yet, he feared no evil, he feared no darkness, for the Lord was with him. When he tired, he rested, when he thirsted, the Lord provided him nutriment. Step by step, he learned how to survive in this new world. Unlike the struggles he had found in his former life when trying to reach the summit, these new obstacles didn't dissuade him from his path. Instead of becoming distraught, he sought answers in prayer. When he was overwhelmed with trials, he sought the Lord in prayer. Every new challenge he found he was never alone.

One day, after several months of hiking, he looked up. There before him stood the same mountain as before, but now, he looked upon it from the other side. Unlike before, he could now see the beauty in its splendor for the sunset was no longer shadowed in its path. Alit in a miraculous glow, the glory of the Father beckoned him onward, and upward, calling him to the summit above.

As the night air swirled around him, he pulled his collar up a little tighter. He stamped his slowly numbing feet to keep the circulation up. However, the elements bothered him little. He was here for a purpose. Deep in his heart, he knew the decision was right; he had finally chosen wisely.

Yes, he had never been to a Prom before, but oh how beautiful it was now that he had finally made it.

The day we step into our Heavenly home, will be the greatest day of all, and then, we shall all rejoice in His glory, the Prom of all Proms.

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.*



Crossword Solution

A	D	D	S		A	W	A	T	C	H		M	A	R
L	O	O	P	S		A	B	E	L		N	E	B	O
L	E	V	E	L		R	U	L	E		A	D	A	M
	R	E	D	E	E	M	S		F	A	M	I	N	E
A				E	L	S	E		T	R	E	A	D	
S	T	R	O	K	E		R	I	S	E				R
H	E	A	P		C	A	S	T		N	A	O	M	I
D	E	C	E	I	T	S		C	H	A	R	M	E	D
O	M	E	N	S		E	C	H	O		M	I	T	E
D				L	E	A	H		M	A	S	T	E	R
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L	E	A	N		U	N	T	I	E		C	O	R	D
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O	N	E		F	E	W	N	E	S		E	Y	E	

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Sudoku Solution

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



# Clint's Chronicles on the Funny Farm

## The Rest of the Story

By Doug Harrell

Clint had many strengths, a vivid imagination was certainly one of them. He often said that Harrell Hill was his haven of safety and solitude. Clint had had his share of hard times, some of his own making, as we all do. His worldly experiences were amazing. He had traveled the world over in his very successful corporate life, and yet he was a little child in so many ways. He tended to see things with both fear and joy to the degree that escape most of us, and that is our loss. Oh, for the ability to exhibit the enthusiasm for life that Clint was able to do in life, and in death.

Farmer Doug

## Clint's Chronicles on the Funny Farm

By Clint Pollard

Many of you have written or called about Clint's Chronicles on the Funny Farm. It seems that you take great pleasure in my many foibles and near-misses with danger. Also, some of you question my veracity – that would be TRUTH telling – regarding these tales. A couple things you should know: clearly the Lord is protecting me from myself and the myriad monsters and events that seek to snuff me out, and these stories are absolutely true (not to say I don't exaggerate a teeny tiny bit @ ) Now get a load of this.

### Coyotes in the Corridor!

Since moving to Harrell Hill farm back in March my insomnia has all but disappeared. At first, I considered it a miracle but I think it has more to do with arising at 4:00 am, working like a pack mule in the torrid sun, gorging myself on Barbara's marvelous home cooking, fighting off all manner of vermin and dodging life-threatening equipment at every turn. Whatever the cause(s), one night in August I was snoozing peacefully at the Harrell's farmhouse, a cool mountain breeze wafting through my open windows.

Doug told me a few days prior that packs of coyotes – I think he said packs... hmmm, or did he say platoons, or pods, or wads... just not sure. Anyway, I was awakened by howling, snarling, moaning monsters I knew could only be the coyotes...and they were very near the house.

With my newfound farmer courage and a strong desire to protect Doug and Barbara I bolted upright in my comfy bed, sprung into my city slicker flip flops and galloped down the stairs to investigate the ruckus.

I never experienced true darkness before Harrell Hill. I guess the fact that there isn't a city light, an interstate light pole, not even a stop light in the holler makes nighttime real. In any event you get the picture...it was DARK outside. I stood on the porch listening as the howling critters moved closer and closer to me. (By the way, I was on the back porch because Barbara had seen a groundhog – and you remember what they do to me – on the front porch days earlier. I wasn't tempting fate by invading his lair.)

So, it's about 2:00 am and I can literally hear the coyote paws striking dew covered grass nearby. Well, it seemed the right thing to do to GET OUT OF THERE now. I quickly sauntered, okay I stumbled and dashed, into the back door to escape what could be a catastrophic event.

The inside of the Harrell farmhouse is dark like an underground coal mine so my hands are 'feeling' for the walls as I struggle to again find the staircase and retreat to my warm bed. I was thankful to have escaped yet another vicious wild animal attack...at least so I thought.

It seems that sometime during the early evening house, long after farmer Clint had passed out in my bed, the Harrell's son, two granddaughters and their itty-bitsy teacup yorkie dog named Kringle had come for a visit.

I finally came upon the stairs and began the steep climb to safety, all the while contemplating the sheer terror of what might have happened to me had the savage coyotes managed to corner me on the porch.

Suddenly, out of the pitch black of night, an animal screamed, it jumped on my bare leg and growled like a grizzly bear...the nightmare was true. I screamed – not sure how my friends slept through the cries for help – and nearly plunged backward down the staircase. I sensed the soft fur and a very wet tongue attacking my legs. I knew it was only moments before the creature would take its first chunk of farmer Clint flesh.

I regained my balance, dropped to my hands and knees, and duck-walked quickly up the mountain staircase...arriving at the landing and frantically searching for the light switch. I knew this was the end; the carnivores would soon drag my lifeless carcass into the woods. But at least I would confront my attackers and put up a fight.

The blinding light shattered the pitch-black night, startling me and the beast. When what to my wondering eyes should appear...but the itty bitsy yorkie named Kringle, so glad to see me @ . I first thought it was a mirage, possibly an out-of-body, near-death experience. So, this is what a coyote looks like? Not what I expected @ .

My heart nearly stopped...my breathing was labored...my nerves completely frayed...is there no safe place at Harrell Hill Farms? Can a farmer not feel secure in his own farmhouse? (Well it's not actually my farmhouse but you know what I mean.)

I slouched in the corner, unsure of the vision before me...what was it, where did it come from, why was it now sitting in my lap licking my face at 2:30am? Where were the coyotes, they must be close behind?

That's when I remembered Doug telling me that his son, Greg, and granddaughters were coming for a short visit and would arrive at 9:00pm or so. "That's it," I



said aloud. "This vicious teacup yorkie must belong to Greg."

I rubbed Kringle's belly, rustled his fur a bit, shooed him down the STEEP staircase and slinked back into my bedroom.

The beasts continued to howl outside, nearer than ever now, but I didn't care. I was tired...I was safe...I was happy...I was home. I had cheated death once again, a new adventure on the Funny Farm.

Humbled in the hills,  
Farmer Clint

## Hospice and Palliative Care of the Blue Ridge

### Hospice Honors Elite Recipient

Hospice and Palliative Care of the Blue Ridge Named a 2017 Hospice Honors Elite Recipient

Hospice and Palliative Care of the Blue Ridge] has been named a 2017 Hospice Honors Elite recipient by Deyta Analytics, a division of HEALTHCAREfirst, the leading provider of Web-based home health and hospice software, outsourced billing and coding services, and advanced analytics. Hospice Honors is a prestigious program that recognizes hospices providing the highest level of quality as measured from the caregiver's point of view.

"Hospice Honors is a landmark compilation of hospices that provide the best patient and caregiver experiences," said J. Kevin Porter of HEALTHCAREfirst. "I am extremely proud of for achieving this highest of honors and I congratulate them on their success."

Award criteria were based on Hospice CAHPS survey results for an evaluation period of October 2015 through September 2016. Award recipients were identified by evaluating performance on a set of 24 quality indicator measures. Performance scores were aggregated from all completed surveys and were compared on a question-by-question basis to a National Performance Score calculated from all partnering hospices contained in the Deyta Analytics' Hospice CAHPS database. Hospice Honors recipients include those hospices scoring above the Deyta Analytics National Performance Score on 20 of the evaluated questions. Deyta Analytics holds a special recognition, Hospice Honors Elite, to honor hospices scoring above the Deyta Analytics National Performance Score on all 24 of the evaluated questions.

Christina Jenkins, CEO, affirms her staff's commitment to always provide an exceptional standard of care. She states, "Hospice of the Blue Ridge is honored to have served our community for the past twenty-five years. This award reflects the quality of the excellent care we provide"

Hospice and Palliative Care of the Blue Ridge is a community-based, non-profit hospice, serving Mitchell, Yancey and Avery county as well as upper McDowell and Burke.

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## Leader Honored At Smart Start Conference

By Ruthie Styles  
Tri-Counties



GREENSBORO— Judy Stevens was awarded the Ashley O. Thrift Volunteer Award at the 2017 National Smart Start Conference. Stevens was a founding board member for the Mitchell-Yancey Partnership for Children, and served as Board Chair in 2015, as the organization completed a merger to become the Blue Ridge Partnership for Children, serving families and young children in Avery, Mitchell and Yancey counties.

The award, named for the longstanding former chair of the board of The North Carolina Partnership for Children (NCPC), is given annually to honor a current or past Smart Start Local Partnership Board Chair who embodies Thrift's dedication and service to young children and families in North Carolina. A \$1,000 cash award will be made to the Blue Ridge Partnership for Children in her name.

"Judy's commitment to developing the early education workforce has changed her community," said Cindy Watkins, President of NCPC. "Her leadership within early childhood education, early literacy initiatives, and for Smart Start is nothing short of inspiring."

Stevens, in her role as Chair of the Early Childhood Department at Mayland Community

College since 1986, made a tremendous impact on the development of an educated work force in the region. Her former students note their preparation involved not only a strong foundation in child development, but also their inspiration to support families in their role as caregivers, and involvement in community efforts that celebrate young children.

"Judy's years of commitment in the early childhood field made her a perfect candidate for the honor of receiving the Thrift Volunteer Award," stated Jennifer Simpson, Executive Director of the Blue Ridge Partnership for Children. "She has dedicated her professional life to ensuring high-quality services are available to support the youngest children in our local community."

Under Judy's leadership, the newly expanded Blue Ridge Partnership for Children has enjoyed successes that include the introduction of new private funding partners, establishment of an annual signature fundraising event, and an increased public presence for Smart Start and the services provided by the organization.

Smart Start is a network of 75 nonprofit local partnerships that serve all 100 North Carolina counties. This network is led by The North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc. (NCPC) that ensures fiscal and programmatic accountability, and coordinates the statewide network to create better outcomes for children and families.

*Ruthie Styles is Community Development Manager for Blue Ridge Partnership for Children serving Avery, Mitchell and Yancey Counties.*



*Dr. Nancy Brown awards Judy Stevens, Board Chair of the Blue Ridge Partnership for Children the Ashley O. Thrift Volunteer Award at the 2017 National Smart Start Conference.*

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Heaven is a Bride

By Bruce Cannon  
Mitchell County

And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. (Revelation 21:2)

June is one of the very most popular months for weddings and a great subject for which to write in this edition of the Blue Ridge Christian News.

One of the most beautiful sights in life is a bride on her wedding day. When the Lord brings together a couple, and they have honored Him with their lives, He seals their wedding with a deep sense of His presence at the ceremony. When that all comes together there is such a glow and beauty on the faces and in the hearts of the bride and groom.

What better illustration of Heaven and of the New Jerusalem was there for John to use as he wrote the book of Revelation! No pain. No sorrow. No one grows old or tired. No sickness. No death. No sin. Nothing bad enters there. We will know one another and love one another without any negative feelings or emotions. There will be no anger. No hatred. No jealousy. There will be no crime, or drugs. Children won't be hurt over there. There will be no need of the sun, for the Lamb is the light thereof.

How amazing is this place God has prepared! John described it as having streets of gold. Twelve foundations in the city each garnished by beautiful stones. And while all of this sounds absolutely amazing and wonderful, the human mind cannot comprehend such a beautiful place. We know it is going to be amazingly beautiful, but I have no doubts that everything we have imagined it to be pales out by comparison to the actuality of it.

Peter wrote in 1 Peter, Chapter 1 that this place will be undefiled, will not fade away and is being reserved for all who know Christ as their personal Savior. Imagine, we inherit it all because of who we know—Jesus!

Mrs. A. S. Bridgewater in the very early 1920's wrote the following words in an attempt to describe it:

How beautiful heaven must be, Sweet home of the happy and free;  
Fair haven of rest for the weary, How beautiful heaven must be.  
Enjoy the month of June as the flowers bloom and gardens grow. And, the next time you are blessed to see a bride, note how beautiful she is and remember John used her to illustrate Heaven.

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.



Passing Through

Brent Price, Chaplain  
Avery Care Team, Mitchell

The other day I was thinking about an old song from my teen-age years. The chorus is simple yet rings with a truth that is timeless. "We may never pass this way again." It repeats three times as if to drive home the point that life is meant to be lived in the present, moment by moment. We may only get one opportunity to experience that which lies before us— one chance to know the love of a lifetime, one chance to do what we've always dreamed, one chance to experience the most beautiful sunset we'll ever see.

We walk the same path every day believing that nothing has changed since yesterday. Numbed by routine and a vague sense that we're living, we trade possibility and opportunity for a twisted sense of safety, security and stability.

Many of the persons who have invited me to journey with them at the end of life tell me they don't have any regrets. Perhaps they don't. However, every one of them shares at least one thing they would have done differently, one opportunity they wish they had pursued. Some wish they had reached further, loved more deeply, shared more fully. Many say they always thought there would be more time to do whatever is tugging at their hearts.

Sometimes we all wonder what might have happened if we had chosen differently. Most of the questions are wistful and wondering. Simply wondering what might have been is not usually life-shaking or particularly disturbing.

The real struggle is rooted in the words "if only." If only I had been able to say "I love you" or "I'm sorry." If only I had stopped drinking. If only I could go back and start over. More than regret, "if only" borders on despair. Something vitally important has been lost forever.

Several years ago I served a patient who wasn't sure he had ever really lived. He graduated from a prestigious college and achieved a successful career in business. His family never lacked for anything and was never touched by any significant struggle or hardship.

However, facing the end of life, he experienced a profound emptiness. His success had come at a high price. All that he had missed haunted him. First steps and birthdays, school plays and ball games. He had spent more time in hotel rooms than he had spent in his own bedroom. After retirement he realized that they were strangers. Longing to know the woman who had waited for him for so many years, he wished he could go back and change the past.

God promises us abundant lives. Jesus expresses a desire for his joy to live in us so that our joy might be full. It all hinges on whether we choose to accept the gift. I hope that, wherever you are on the journey you'll embrace the love that comes your way. Don't wait for an invitation to dance. Steal a kiss. Open your heart and thank God while you're passing through.



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

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By: Joyce (Joy) Harwood Baldwin

### An Old Man's Prayer

The night was dark and stormy  
And the lightning filled the sky  
A lovely view arose in the distance  
As the clouds moved swiftly by

An old cabin lit the darkness  
From the burning lights within  
The chimney smoking from the fire  
Played gently in the wind

An old man rested on his porch  
With Bible in his hands  
He spoke to God with gentle voice  
Lord here I am again

Thank you for my precious life  
You've blessed abundantly  
Tho often things don't go my way  
You speak your peace to me

The comfort of my home is gold  
With loved ones just inside  
Lord your power is amazing  
Making show in open skies

The old man shut the big front door  
And laid his Bible down  
Then closed his weary eyes to sleep  
As angels gathered round



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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# Morganton Seventh Day Adventist Church

## Leaving a Legacy

By Pastor Rick Mercer  
Burke County

Oswald Glait repeatedly risked his life for Bible truths. Authorities captured him in 1545 while he was on an evangelistic mission in central Europe. He spent a year and six weeks in jail, until awakened at midnight by the thunderous footsteps of soldiers marching down the hall. The mercenaries bound him hand and foot, dragged him through the city, and cast him into the Danube. They little realized that the truth he gave his life for, like ripples created by a rock thrown into a pond, would rapidly spread throughout central Europe.

Oswald took the long view of life, looking beyond his immediate circumstances. He knew his influence would continue beyond his immediate death. He had confidence that the truth he died for would eventually triumph.

Most people live for the immediacy of the moment. They are concerned with the present. Their concern is with what happens to them now. They are absorbed in self-interest.

This great man of faith (and many others down through the centuries) viewed life from a different perspective. Pleasing God absorbed their attention. Living for Christ consumed them. Faithfulness to His truth meant everything to them. With the apostle Paul they proclaimed, "I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 3:14).

What kind of legacy will you leave for those whose lives touch yours? Is it a legacy of compromise or commitment? A legacy of complacency or consecration? The witness of Oswald Glait echoes down the corridors of time, calling us to commitment today. It calls us to deeper dedication, to "stand for the right though the heavens fall." Our Lord asks us not only to be willing to die for Him, but also to live for Him now and forever.

When I think of the word "legacy"... it turns me toward thinking about the men in our lives otherwise known as "Dad" or "Father."

In this day and time, we must be intentional about "passing" a legacy consistent to our beliefs to our children. If not, culture is sure to do it without our permission which often has a negative end.

I am thankful for my dad and the many others who have made the effort to leave a solid legacy in my life. The following are just a few thoughts to help foster "leaving a legacy."

1. Make sure your children know that Jesus loves EVERYONE! And that God is personal, loving and will forgive us.
2. Make spiritual activities a routine part of life.
3. Clarify timeless truth—what's right and wrong.
4. Incorporate spiritual principles into everyday living.
5. Make sure God is viewed as a personal, caring being who is to be loved and respected.

Have a Happy Father's Day!!

Rick Mercer is the pastor of the Morganton Seventh-day Adventist Church at 2187 Jamestown Road, Morganton. They can be reached at 870-820-3549 or [cjmercer@tds.net](mailto:cjmercer@tds.net). Check out [www.morgantonsda.org](http://www.morgantonsda.org). Their passion is to share the love of Jesus with all who will listen.

Happy  
Father's  
Day!



# Bridge42 Church

## The Floodlight of the Gospel

By Jason Koon  
Burke County



If you've never spotlighted a deer, first, don't try it, it's illegal. I've never done it, but from what I understand, if you shine a bright floodlight on a deer at night, their eyes are so sensitive that it will be completely blinded by the floodlight. The deer won't be able to see anything and will become disoriented, making it impossible for the deer to get away. As I read through some of the great heroes of the faith that came before us, I think this might be similar to what happened to many of them. They had been so overtaken by the bright light of Christ and His glorious gospel, to the point that everything else seemed like nothing in comparison to Him. Everything faded into the background and the only thing that mattered was pursuing this light. This is why many have risked and in some cases given everything for the sake of the kingdom. It's why some of them were known to have lingered so long in prayer that they did permanent damage to their bodies through lack of food, water, and sleep. It is why others poured over God's Word so tirelessly that their eyesight actually failed from exhaustion. They saw the bright light of the Gospel, in a way most of us can't imagine, and everything else faded away into the background.

Take Adoniram Judson, for example. In 1810 Adoniram was preparing to be one of the first missionaries to go to India with the Gospel. He was prepared to propose to His Fiance Ana Hasseltine, but he was clear that their marriage would mean that she too would have to be living in the untamed jungles of southern India. There was no thought in Adoniram's mind to leave missionary work behind for the sake of marriage and family, so he wrote to John Hasseltine, his prospective future father-in-law to ask permission to propose to his daughter and take her into the mission field with him.

"I have now to ask whether you can consent to part with your daughter early next spring, to see her no more in this world? Whether you can consent to her departure to a heathen land, and her subjection to the hardships and sufferings of a missionary life... Can you consent to all this, for the sake of Him who left His heavenly home... for the sake of perishing, immortal souls... Can you consent to all this, in hope of soon meeting your daughter in the world of glory, with a



crown of righteousness brightened by the acclamations of praise which shall resound to her Saviour from heathens saved, through her means, from eternal woe and despair?"

To our surprise, Hasseltine, not only agreed to this but

joyfully gave His blessing to the perspective union between Adoniram and His daughter.

These people saw something clearly, that I know is there, but that I've only caught a passing glimpse of. The Floodlight of the Gospel. O for a glimpse of this beautiful mystery, this white-hot, divine floodlight leading us, not beyond the message of Christ and Him crucified, but deeper into it, until the outside world fades from views. O for my mind to apprehend these glorious truths until my heart is fully apprehended by them until all is Christ until Christ is all. O for the overcoming faith of Adoniram and Ana Judson.

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

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Plumtree Church

Special Meetings with Rodney Hogue

By Pastor Ryan Brigdeo  
Avery County

You are invited to Plumtree Presbyterian Church for special meetings on Saturday, June 10th at 7:00pm, Sunday, June 11th at 11:00am and Sunday evening at 6:30pm with Rodney Hogue.

Dr. Hogue has been in full-time ministry since 1977. He pastored over 32 years on the west coast in Washington state and California, his last being 23 years at Community of Grace in Hayward, California. Rodney began to minister in the areas of deliverance and healing in the 1980's while pastoring in churches in Washington state. His passion is to equip believers to minister in power for healing, deliverance, and to see the restoration of lives to fulfill one's destiny. Rodney now ministers itinerantly equipping believers nationally and internationally to walk out their identity and expand God's Kingdom which includes demonstrating the Kingdom of God with power. You will be blessed by these powerful meetings.



Rodney Hogue

Pastor at Plumtree Presbyterian Church.

Grace Community Church

Praying Through Anxiety

By Jerry Lewis  
McDowell County



Every day I talk with someone who deals with fear or anxiety. If your personal life isn't falling apart, 5 minutes of the news reveals a world seemingly spinning out of control. This week I discovered a resource from Biblestudytools.com. Use this as a prayer guide when you're afraid.

1. *And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.* (Philippians 4:7) God, I acknowledge my need for you today. I pray that you would breathe peace onto me through your Holy Spirit. Guard my heart. Show me how to protect my mind. I am weak on my own and so I fall back on your strength today.

2. *When I am afraid, I put my trust in you.* (Psalm 56:3) Jesus, I put my trust in you today. Anxious thoughts are taking over my mind, and it's easy to take my eyes off of you when I feel afraid. Remind me of who you are. Pour out your love on me, that I might remember you are always good and always faithful, especially when I am afraid.

3. *So, do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.* (Isaiah 41:10) Lord Jesus, thank you for always being with me. Your name, Immanuel, means God with us. I'm so grateful today that you are near me no matter what anxious thoughts try to creep into my mind. Thank you for being my strength when I am weak. You are faithful always. I love you, Lord, and I rely on you today and every day. Amen.

4. *For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.* (2 Timothy 1:7) God, thank you for this truth. Thank you for the gifts you bestow on us—gifts that help ease our anxious spirits and remind us of who we are in Christ. Thank you for giving us power to fight the lies. Thank you for loving us even in our brokenness.

5. *Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.* (Joshua 1:9) Lord Jesus, we know in you we are conquerors. Sometimes, it can feel so hard to believe that. We don't feel strong or courageous, and we worry relentlessly about our lives and circumstances. Remind us today that we are strong in you.

6. *The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.* (Psalm 34:18) Lord, my heart is broken. My mind is restless and my spirit is uneasy. When I feel broken down or defeated, I want to run to you, knowing you are always present and always near. Comfort me, Jesus.

7. *An anxious heart weighs a man down, but a kind word cheers him up.* (Proverbs 12:25) Jesus, my anxious heart is weighing me down today. I confess that I have become consumed by my own thoughts and I have lost sight of who you are. Speak kindly to my heart, Lord, and remind me of what is true. Thank you for your forgiveness and your endless grace for me.

8. *Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace.* (Colossians 3:15) Dear Lord, it is my deep desire that your peace would rule in my heart. When I feel uneasy or unsettled, I want to know you are near me. Calm my fears, settle my spirit, and bring rest to my heart as I surrender myself to you today.

9. *The Lord gives strength to his people; the Lord blesses his people with peace.* (Psalm 29:11) Lord, thank you for giving me strength. On the hard days, help me to remember you are never far away. Your strength is always fighting for me—I need only to be still in your presence. Thank you for bringing peace to me. Thank you for every blessing. I want to name and remember them today, for you are always good. Amen.

I love songs. This one will serve as a good backdrop to this prayer.

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



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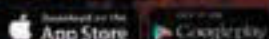


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## On Mission

### Africa

By Rev. George Patton, Jr.  
Burke County



Columbus was called mad because he decided to sail the uncharted ocean. Martin Luther was called mad because he presumed to defy the entrenched religious hierarchy of his time. Patrick Henry was considered mad when he cried, "Give me liberty, or give me death!" George Washington was thought to be mad when he decided to continue the war after the winter at Valley Forge, when thousands of his men had died and other thousands had deserted, leaving him only a handful of men. We have become too sophisticated and respectable to be called mad in our generation. Christianity has become so respectable and so conventional that it is now insipid. The salt has lost its flavor. Would to God that the world found us Christians dangerous enough to call us mad, in these days when materialism and secularism are sweeping over the world. Thank God there are those who sacrifice time, talents, social position, and lucrative posts, and who fling aside every advantage to serve the Kingdom of God. On my last trip to Africa I found such Brothers and Sister. They live in mud houses, farm for a living, take care of families and still have time to travel to remote villages to carry the Gospel message. One such man is named Pastor-Katende Jeremiah Bulasio. Pastor Jeremiah is a converted witch doctor now called to be a pastor and evangelist. For years, the trade of black magic had been handed down in Pastor Jeremiah's family. His father practiced it, his grandfather, and so on as far back as they can remember. Jeremiah had been trained in the profession. One day 3 boys, who were friends, came to Jeremiah seeking love potions for the girls they had fallen in love with. It goes without saying in Africa, if a witchdoctor gives you a potion and it does not work, you get your money back. Two of the boys had success with the potions they had received from Jeremiah, but one did not. Jeremiah said, "what do you mean my potion did not work." Who is this girl? The boy said, "She is a Christian." Jeremiah said, "I will take care of this one." Jeremiah told me the only way to get a spirit to work against a Christian is to either get them scared or mad. So, Jeremiah hid in the bushes, and as the girl was walking up the path on her way to school, Jeremiah jumped out and threw urine he had in a bottle on her. With tears in her eyes, she said, "Jeremiah I am going to pray for you." Jeremiah said, "what kind of power is this that not even I, the great Jeremiah cannot fight against it." That week Jeremiah went to the church where the girl was attending to find out what kind of power she had and where she was getting it. He heard the message of Jesus. He heard how Jesus had all power. That night the church was holding another service. Jeremiah came to the service that night carrying the suitcase that contained all the witchcraft materials that had been passed down from generation to generation. He put it under the communion table in the front of the church. As the pastor began preaching a corner of the suitcase was sticking out. The preacher put his foot up on it. Jeremiah said, "I knew then he was going to die, but nothing happened." He heard the message again about how Jesus even had power over death and He would give all those who trust in Him power from heaven. Jeremiah knew the power he had was not a match for Jesus's power. When the invitation was given, Jeremiah felt the call of God to go forward. He said that the evil spirits he had been working with were outside the church calling to him, telling him that if he went up they would kill him when he came out of the church. Jeremiah told me that he knew if they were to kill him, Jesus had the power to either protect him or raise him back up. Jeremiah went forward and received Christ. Many in the village thought Jeremiah to be mad and still do. He has become one of the most anointed preachers in East Africa now. I am so proud of him.



Pastor Jeremiah



Bush Church



Church where Jeremiah got saved



Remote Uganda village

George Patton is an evangelist/missionary to the world from Grace Baptist Church in Morganton.



# Burke County Schools

## Accentuate the Positive

By Cheryl Shuffler  
Burke County

### Sunrise readers form club at Forest Hill

Every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday morning at Forest Hill Elementary School you'll find a group of students who enjoy arriving at school early to read together. English Language Learners teacher Wendy Hammerstone sponsors the FHES Sunrise Readers club, which got its start at the school 10 years ago. The club continues to grow as students learn about it through word of mouth. Interested students arrive at school at 7:30 a.m. three mornings a week, and reading mentors are matched with reading mentees who need a little extra help mastering the skill. The mentee picks the book to read and the two students read it together. Principal Sara LeCroy said, "The students love the program and consider it a privilege to be a part of it. Many students who were once mentees are now mentors. The mentors say they learn about responsibility, helping other students learn to read, and making new friends. The students take it very seriously and are very committed to the program. It is a beautiful thing."



### Trail receives backing from grant

The Resourceful Communities' Creating New Economies Fund (CNEF) has awarded Patton High School \$10,000 for the Enola Community Trail, which will stretch from Enola Road to Mull Elementary School. The trail is the vision of Patton science teacher Noel Francis and is the designated project this year for the school's annual Giving Games. This year, the Giving Games committee is hosting the "Memorial 'Merica Melon Run and 5K" as a fundraiser for the trail. The run is set for Saturday, May 27 at the school. Visit "Memorial 'Merica Melon 5K" on Facebook or email Francis at nfrancis@burke.k12.nc.us. The racecourse starts and ends on the track in the football stadium and circuits the campus twice on about half asphalt and half grass. The two special running categories are the Melon Relay and the Band of Brothers (or Sisters). The Melon Relay will consist of three-member teams carrying a melon one mile each before handing it off to a teammate. The time is recorded when the melon carrier crosses the finish line. The Band of Brothers (or Sisters) involves teams of three to 10 runners carrying a melon between them. The last of the team members to cross the line is counted as the group's time. The rules include the group must provide the melon and the team is disqualified if the melon is dropped or broken or even cracked. Awards will be given for top three overall men's and women's categories, age categories less than 10, 10-14, and each 5 year increment ending at 70+. Group awards for Melon Run and Band of Brothers (Sisters) also will be given. The cost is \$15 without a T-shirt and \$25 with a T-shirt, \$10 for the 1 mile Fun Run with a T-shirt and free for the Fun Run without a T-shirt. Donations are appreciated and will be used to build the Enola Community Trail. Race time is 8 a.m. May 27 for the 1 mile run and 8:30 a.m. for the 5K. Registration and packet pick-up will begin a 7 a.m.



### Icard wins walking challenge

Burke County Public Schools nurses challenged employees to get moving and "walk across America," and 354 employees accepted the challenge. The employees recorded their steps each week Feb. 1 through April 30 with schools competing against each other. Oak Hill Elementary School had the most steps the first month and received a ribbon-shaped sign and a fruit bowl. The next two months belonged to Icard Elementary School, who in the end won the overall challenge. Icard's school custodian, Tina Buff, won the individual challenge. On Tuesday, Icard employees who participated in the walking challenge enjoyed a duty-free lunch as well as a meal from Chartwells. Ms. Buff received a gift certificate for a one-hour massage from Therapeutic Massage and teacher Andrea Gladden won a drawing for a gift certificate to Beanstalk Journey Zipline. All total, Burke County Public Schools employees recorded 194,067,485 steps, or the equivalent of making 10 round trips across America. Each school kept up with their combined total of steps by marking them on a map. Contact: Public Relations Officer Cheryl M. Shuffler cmsuffler@burke.k12.nc.us 828-438-2989



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

# Hospice and Palliative Care of the Blue Ridge

## Celebrates Blessing of the Hands

By Brent Price  
Mitchell County



Hospice and Palliative Care of the Blue Ridge celebrates the commitment and tireless dedication of our nurses. Last week we conducted a service to affirm their calling through a blessing of their hands. Each nurse offered their hands in a hand-washing ritual and dried each other's hands to represent their dedication as servants to each person in their care.



The hectic pace of healthcare makes it difficult at times to stop and listen to our hearts. The Blessing of Hands reminds us of the importance of caring for the soul, especially at a time when patients are confronted with the end of life.

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

## We Are Now Partnering Together Bakersville Community Health Center

### Celo Health Center

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These three health centers partnered to form the Mountain Community Health Partnership (MCHP.) Each health center will continue to provide the same high quality of care patients have experienced for many years. We are dedicated to offering exceptional care to our patients while striving for a healthier community.

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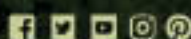
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REJOICE  
By Faye W Boone

The dew is on the flower  
The bird is on the wing  
A gentle breeze is blowing  
My heart begins to sing

Praise to our Heavenly Father  
And to Jesus, His loving Son  
And to the precious Holy Spirit  
Who guides the race we run

We have no way of knowing  
If our race be short or long  
And sometimes the way seems hidden  
As to what is right and wrong

But if our hearts are tuned to listen  
To the Holy Spirit's voice  
We can discern His plan for us  
That will make our hearts rejoice

So keep us Heavenly Father,  
In that straight and narrow place  
That leads us ever upward  
Until we see Your smiling face



Faye W Boone is 91 years old, a charter member of Faith Fellowship Church in Newdale, NC. She is the 1st place winner of Poetry Contest at Yancey Senior Center.



Possible Closure  
By Jerry Cade  
Mitchell County

The Mission Hospital Board and administration are considering stopping obstetrical services at the Blue Ridge Regional Hospital in Spruce Pine. This would be a terrible loss to our community.

I speak about this as a father and grandfather of children who would have died or been damaged, if we hadn't had the wonderful obstetrical care in Spruce Pine. Two of my children, who are now grown, living here, and serving in our medical community, were twins with overlapping and interlocking chins. One was head down, and one was head up with a foot coming out first. They required an emergency C-section or one would have almost certainly died.

3 years ago, my daughter was near term with our grandson, and was being checked at the hospital when she developed a massive hemorrhage. Within 10 minutes an emergency C-section was performed. She and Jack were saved. She never could have survived transport to Asheville or Marion.

There are many stories like ours. The change will bring an almost certain increase in infant or maternal deaths and morbidity. Pregnant women with false labor and minor complications will be forced to make trips up and down the mountain to be checked.

I also speak as a physician who has served in our community for more than 40 years — both in family practice with hospital care and in the emergency department at Blue Ridge. I know how difficult and dangerous it is to transport pregnant mothers who are bleeding or losing their babies. I know how frightening it is to have to deliver a baby in the emergency room where none of us — doctors and nurses alike — have been trained or are experienced in Obstetrics.

The loss of this critical service would mean there would be no obstetrical care for women and babies between Boone and Asheville. The number of deliveries in Spruce Pine have been on an increasing trend over the past year. If this department closes, the physicians, midwives, and nurses who have chosen this profession will move out of our community. Already, at least one family doctor who wanted to do OB decided against coming here to live and practice, because of this controversy. We will lose family practice and women's health services, if the obstetrics department is closed. This is a significant health care, economic and employment loss to our community. My observation has been that in rural hospitals to take this step, surgical and medical services begin to shrink.

Obstetrical services, and women's health services bring young families to health care. We have a wonderful, recently built facility, and a competent caring staff in this department. With advertising and nurturing these services would grow and flourish. Perhaps that is where the decision should be — on how best to promote the obstetrical and women's services at Blue Ridge Regional Hospital.

Those wishing to make their voices heard on this important issue should call the BRRH CEO, Rebecca Carter, at 828-766-1804 or the Mission CEO, Ron Paulus, at 828-213-1111.

Jerry Cade is a physician in Mitchell County.

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May 1, 2017  
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## His Place Worship Center

### Local Worship Center Celebrates 7 Years of Service

By Marion Stephan  
McDowell County

"As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God" (1 Peter 4:10).

His Place Worship Center in Marion will be celebrating its seventh anniversary in June. To do so, the church is carrying out several projects that continue the church's tradition of service to the community.

On June 3, the church will offer a "name your price" yard sale. Shoppers will contribute whatever they consider an item worth or whatever they can afford – even if they cannot afford anything, says organizer Paul Boyd. Paul Boyd and his wife, Marian, are co-pastors of His Place.



The praise and worship team at His Place performs at the 2016 "Walk for Life" fundraiser for the Pregnancy Care Center.

The yard sale will be held at the church's location at 1423 Highway 70 West in Marion. It will last from 9 am until customers stop coming. Any contributions will be given to Freedom Life Ministries in Marion.

Per the above organization's website, Freedom Life Ministries helps meet the physical and spiritual needs "of current and former offenders" who have served or are serving prison time.

On June 17, members of His Place and youth from Project Challenge in McDowell County will be wielding sponges, brushes, soap, and water in a fight against summer car grime. The two groups will work side-by-side to offer free car washes to the community.

Cars will be scrubbed from 9 am to 3 pm, at Auto Zone, 599 North Main Street, Marion. (In the local "tongue," as expressed by Paul Boyd, Auto Zone is "on the five-lane in Marion," next to CVS Pharmacy.)

Auto Zone will provide "brushes, soap, rags . . . everything we need to wash with," according to Boyd. This company routinely provides its parking lot to charities and youth groups for car washes, he notes.

The car wash project was initiated during the church's April Board of Directors meeting, Boyd says. Board members saw the effort as an opportunity to raise up and mentor McDowell's young people, he adds. Any contributions given during the event will be donated to Project Challenge.

Project Challenge is a non-profit statewide program that provides youth with opportunities to "give their time and talent back to the community," explains Phyllis Ennis. Ennis supervises the program in McDowell, Rutherford, Polk, Henderson, and Transylvania Counties, and carries out the program in McDowell.

In McDowell, Project Challenge youth have raked leaves for the elderly, picked up trash on the Catawba River Greenway, and cleaned up classrooms during the summertime, Ennis explains. They have also cleaned kennels and cared for dogs at Rusty's Legacy, a no-kill animal shelter in Marion. The youth assist "any group that needs help."

Throughout the last seven years, His Place has also supported Aglow International and the McDowell Pregnancy Care Center. "All change given every Sunday is going to the McDowell pregnancy center," Boyd asserts. "We raised over \$1200.00 last year from our body to speak for those who do not have a voice - the unborn!"

Information on Freedom Life Ministries is available at [freedomlifeministries.org](http://freedomlifeministries.org), and the Project Challenge Program is described at [projectchallenge.org](http://projectchallenge.org). His Place Worship Center's website address is [hisplaceoutreach.org](http://hisplaceoutreach.org).

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



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July 1st - July 3rd - 2017

**EVENT LOCATION:** Catawba Meadows Park (River Stage)

701 Sanford Dr, Morganton, NC 28655 • Latitude: 35° 45.5596' • Longitude: -81° 42.1646'

#### RESERVED SEATING FOR 2017 FESTIVAL

A reserved seat ticket (3 day full event pass) ensures the ticket holder will receive a reserved chair in front of the River Stage. Chairs are provided for reserved seating paid admissions. Only 100 reserved seats are available. NO REFUND ON ANY TICKET SALES. 6.75% sales tax applicable

EARLY BIRD TICKETS December 1, 2016-May 1, 2017	
Daily Admission	\$15.00
Full Event Pass (reserved seating for 3 days)	\$65.00
Full Event Pass (three days)	\$40.00
12 & under Free with paid admission (except reserved seating)	
Per order service charge (mail or will call)	\$2.00
Ticketing Fee	\$1.15
Free Camping pass with a Full Event Pass (No hook-ups)	
Camping permit (No hook-ups)	\$20.00
Bluegrass Camp for Kids	\$50.00

REGULAR TICKET SALES May 2, 2017 at Gate	
Daily Admission	\$25.00
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Full Event Pass (three days)	\$70.00
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Bluegrass Camp for Kids	\$65.00

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or for more information  
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300 Collett St. • PO Box 3448  
Morganton, NC 28680-3448

#### SATURDAY July 1

- 1:00 Danny Paisley & The Southern Grass
- 2:30 Flatt Lonesome
- 4:00 Blue Highway
- 5:30 *Supper Break*
- 6:30 Flatt Lonesome
- 8:00 Blue Highway
- 9:30 Larry Sparks

#### SUNDAY July 2

- 1:00 Terry Baucom's Dukes of Drive
- 2:30 Volume Five
- 4:00 Junior Sisk & Ramblers Choice
- 5:30 *Supper Break*
- 6:30 Volume Five
- 8:00 Junior Sisk & Ramblers Choice
- 9:30 The Isaacs

#### MONDAY July 3

- 1:00 Sideline
- 2:30 Michael Cleveland & Flamekeeper
- 4:00 The Boxcars
- 5:00 Kids Camp
- 5:30 *Supper Break*
- 6:30 Michael Cleveland & Flamekeeper
- 8:00 The Boxcars
- 9:30 Mountain Heart

#### TUESDAY July 4 Celebration

##### FREE ADMISSION

- 5:00 Free activities begin with cornhole, volleyball, mini golf, concession stands open
- 6:00 Frog Jumping Contest
- 7:00 Watermelon Eating Contest
- 7:30-9:00 Music Entertainment
- 9:15 Star Spangled Banner
- 9:30 **FIREWORKS**



# Toe River Arts

## New Exhibition in Spruce Pine

By Kate Groff  
Yancey and Mitchell County

On July 15, the Spruce Pine Gallery will host one of their most compelling 2-dimensional exhibitions. Entitled, "Inheritance", the show will feature the works of Jill Eberle, Kiki Farish, Jane Wells Harrison, and Jerry Jackson. Each has a story to tell about their relationship with master painting professor, Paul Hartley who died in 2010. Hartley taught at East Carolina University from the early to mid '70s through 2008. Not unlike hundreds of other successful artists around the country, these four artists benefited



from his artistry. Jerry reflected that "He was a masterful teacher who possessed clarity of insight, which he could impart with few words...a teacher, mentor and friend."

In January 2016, Jill, Kiki, Jane, and Jerry reunited for two weeks in a Winter Residency at Penland School of Crafts. They spent uninterrupted hours connecting, creating and conducting critiques, which gave light to new ways of work, new materials, fresh ideas, and a welcomed realignment of friendships. In this exhibit, each artist will present a distinct body of work that includes influences from that Penland residency and their relationship with their former teacher. Their broad range of media and styles will engage visitors as they explore their common threads.

Over the past ten plus years, the four have grown as artists and friends. They now live in different parts of the state, doing different work in the arts, but each will acknowledge the commonality of being that Hartley instilled in all his students. Lee Hansley, Raleigh art dealer who represented Hartley said, "He has influenced more young artists than anyone in North Carolina's university system. That will be his legacy..."

The exhibition will include one of Paul Hartley's large-scale paintings, My Room is Turning.

An artists' reception is planned for Saturday, July 15 from 5 to 7 pm. The artists will toast Paul Hartley's contribution, talk about their own work, and encourage and engage visitor comment. "Inheritance" continues through August 19. The Spruce Pine Gallery is located at 269 Oak Avenue and open from 10:30 am to 5 pm Tuesday through Saturday. For more information about the exhibit, please call 828-765-0520. For more information about the Toe River Arts Council and its programs, please visit [www.toeriverarts.org](http://www.toeriverarts.org), or call 828-682-7215.

Toe River Arts is a non-profit organization established in 1976 to connect the arts and the community. It is supported by other organizations, individuals, and businesses that understand the benefit of arts to a thriving region.



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



## Agribusiness Program begins Fall 2017

MCC's new Agribusiness Technology Program will prepare students to manage agricultural businesses and agriculturally related operations. The Sustainable Agriculture component will focus on agricultural principles and practices.



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## Avery County

**Avery County Chamber** - June 14-Animal Birthday Party Grandfather Mountain, June 17-Beech Mountain Cool 5K Run, June 23-Johnson Brothers Concert at Seven Devils, June 24-Annual Cornbread Cook-Off at Old Hampton Store & Tavern in Linville, June 25-Singing on the Mountain at McRae Meadows on Grandfather Mountain, June 30-July 4-Fireworks at Sugar Mountain, Beech Mountain, Newland and Crossnore.

**Lees-McRae College**- BANNER ELK, N.C holds two science-oriented summer programs—Registration is now open for two Lees-McRae College science-focused camps, the Wildlife Science Summer Program and the Advanced Wildlife Science Summer Program. The first session runs from June 25 until July 1 and is designed to provide experiences to those high school students with interests in conservation, animal medicine and wildlife studies. Participants will be introduced to active wildlife biology, veterinary, animal conservation and wildlife rehabilitation programs. Students will gain exposure to patient care and education in the May Wildlife Rehabilitation Center. The second session, which runs from July 2 until July 8, is designed for those students interested in pursuing a college education in the wildlife field. Students can work in a clinical setting alongside mentors and staff, engage in advanced wildlife studies, and tour parts of western North Carolina to study its wildlife.

Both sessions require registrants to be rising sophomores or above and have enrolled in, or completed, a high school level biology course. Registration deadline for both sessions is Sunday, June 11. Cost is \$750 and includes lodging, meals, instruction, materials, supplies, field trips, transportation and a camp t-shirt. For participants who would like to attend both sessions, the cost is \$1,400.

Payment can be made by method of mail check, or online.

## Burke County

**Catawba River Baptist Association** - We are putting together a mission team to serve in Chicago July 29-August 4th. The cost is \$200 per person which includes transportation, lodging, meals, trip shirt and all needed supplies. For more information and registration forms please contact our CRBA office. All forms and a non-refundable deposit of \$50 must be turned in by June 8th. This trip will entail construction, VBS, testimonies and prayerwalking.

June 1-Ministers' Wives Fellowship @ Abele's in Morganton @ 5:30 (Dutch Treat)  
13-14-SBC Annual Meeting in Phoenix

West Virginia Mission Trip - We will be taking a group to Fayetteville, West Virginia July 23-28 where we will do VBS, Nursing Home ministry, Block Parties as well as some light construction. This is a great trip for adults and youth as well as families with children. The cost of \$200 per person includes food, lodging (sleeping on air mattresses at New River Baptist Church), and supplies. For more information, registration and medical release forms please call our CRBA office or email me at [rsmith@crbanc.org](mailto:rsmith@crbanc.org)

Catawba River Baptist Association will be leading a mission trip to Cuba September 16-22. This will be an exciting trip where we will do construction, prayer walking, personal evangelism and preaching. The cost for the trip which includes transportation, food, lodging and supplies is \$2,000 per person. This trip is open to both men and women.

**Christian Business Men's Connection (Morganton)** - We are a movement of Men to Experience the Power of One God, the Value of One Man and the Leverage of One Team, resulting in the Spiritual Reproduction among Businessmen. Please join us for lunch at one of our weekly Bible study meetings: Tuesday, 12:00 noon at the Community House, Morganton. Contact: Wayne Giese, 828-413-5819.

**First Baptist Church of Marion** - EVERYONE IS INVITED TO MOVIE NIGHT ON FRIDAY, JUNE 16th AT 6:00 pm. We will have a pizza and dessert dinner at 6:00 pm. The movie and popcorn will begin at 6:30 pm in the Blanton Center. Please sign up with Ms. Christi, if you plan to attend.

**Morganton Seventh-day Adventist-Burke County** - VBS - Fruits of the Spirit Big Heart Farms - Where God's Fruit Grows! Please join us for Vacation Bible School! June 26th - 30th, from 6:00 p.m., to 8:00 p.m., at the Morganton Seventh-day Adventist Church, 2187 Jamestown Road, Morganton, N.C. 28655. We will be learning about the Fruits of the Spirit in Galatians Chapter 5!

**Health Social** - Sunday, June 11th., at 5:30 p.m. Please bring a plant-based (non-dairy / non-meat) dish along with copies of your recipe to share, if you would like! This month's health social will take place on beautiful Burkemont Mountain, 6266 High Mountain Road, Morganton, N.C. 28655. Enjoy a wonderful view, great food and fun fellowship! For more information, please contact Cindy at 870-510-8048.

**Cooking Class with Sharon** - Tuesday, June 20th., from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m., at the Silver Creek Adventist School, 2195 Jamestown Road, Morganton, N.C. 28655. \$10.00 per person, which includes cooking demo and samples! Please contact Cindy at 870-510-8048 or e-mail [cjmercer@tds.net](mailto:cjmercer@tds.net) to register or for more information.

Sharon shares a unique presentation that will provide a personal testimony to health and wellness that began while caring for her husband's health challenges, which included diabetes, asthma, high blood pressure and eventually cancer. He now manages his health through diet and exercise without medication!

## Historic Valdese

June 2: The Tony Bailey Band- Country  
June 9: NuBlu- Bluegrass & Progressive Grass  
June 16: Emily Minor- Country & Variety  
June 23: Jason Lee McKinney- Americana & Variety

The outdoor drama "From This Day Forward" written by Fred Cranford is the flagship show of Old Colony Players. The summer of 2017 will mark the 50th consecutive

season of production. This drama tells the story of the Waldenses, a people from the area known as the Cottian Alps in Northern Italy near the French border, and the founders of the Town of Valdese.

The 50th season is proudly directed by Kenneth Kay & Kim Cozort Kay

Rated PG13 for Battle Scenes

Purchase Tickets by calling 828-879-2129, order online , or get them the night of the show with cash or check.

Show runs Friday & Saturday starting July 14 and ending August 12 at 7:45pm.

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

## McDowell County

**Clinchfield Baptist Church (Marion)** - We are accepting resumes for Minister of Music. Current worship style is blended, using both traditional hymns, choral, and contemporary arrangements with soloist and choir. The position is a paid part-time position and involves organizing and leading the church's music ministries both adult and children. Baptist background preferred. Send resumes with references to [Clinchfield-baptistchurch@frontier.com](mailto:Clinchfield-baptistchurch@frontier.com) or to address 1150 East Court Street, Marion, NC 28752. Attn: Personnel Committee.

**Cross Memorial Baptist Church** - 15 Cross Memorial Baptist Church Loop (across from Welcome Center) Marion NC 28752

We will be having Vacation Bible School from June 18th-June 23rd from 6:00-8:30 nightly. All children from age 3 to Grade 5 are invited to attend. We will have a van running nightly. If you wish to attend and need a ride please call the church at 652-6315 to make arrangements. Our theme for this year is "Hero Central".

**First Baptist Church of Marion** - Belize Medical Mission Registration is now complete for the 2017 Belize Medical Mission Trip. 14 are onboard and preparing to provide free clinics in 5 underserved villages in the northern Corozal District of the country. The team is currently raising funds for medical supplies and medicines. Contributions are greatly appreciated. Please make your donations to FBC for the Belize Medical Fund. For more info., please contact Scott Hagaman.

**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 as 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.

## Mitchell County

**All Saints of America Orthodox** On Saturday, June 17th at 11:00AM, All Saints of America Orthodox Mission will be having their first 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 11:00AM. 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** - Vacation Bible School, LifeWay's "Galactica Starveyors" will be Sunday, June 11th - Thursday, June 15th, 6:00 - 8:30 each night with an Adult Class at 7 pm. VBS Kick-off is Saturday, June 10th, 10 am - 12 noon.

"Decoration Day" at Bear Creek is Sunday, June 25th.

**Celebrate Recovery** - This is a Christ and Biblical Based Program, giving hip and help for men, women and families suffering from addiction. Any question contact Josh Wise@ 385-0061

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

**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.

**Rhododendron Festival**—On June 16 and 17, the Town of Bakersville, Gateway to the Roan and Home to the Arts, will host its 71th North Carolina Rhododendron Festival which is among the oldest and most respected festivals in the Southeast. The two-day Festival will feature the Rhododendron Festival Pageant on Friday and Saturday evenings. The Rhododendron Festival Arts and Crafts Fair on both Friday and Saturday will have live music all day, food vendors, featuring local and organic selections and church baked goods; regional arts and crafts people; commercial vendors; inflatables and train rides for the kids; nonprofit exhibits, and the famous Ducky Derby. We will have a classic car show on Saturday as well as a 10K run and street dancing both Friday and Saturday nights. Come to Bakersville! There are vendor spaces still available. Contact Dr. Dan Barron [drdanbarron@gmail.com](mailto:drdanbarron@gmail.com) or 828-284-1914 <http://www.ncrhododendronfestival.org/>.



## 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 [jouuts@yahoo.com](mailto:jouuts@yahoo.com).

**First Baptist Church Spruce Pine** - First Baptist Church of Spruce Pine is seeking a part-time childcare provider for their toddler nursery. The position will require approximately eight hours per week consisting of 4.5 hours on Sunday morning, 1.5 hours on Sunday nights, and 2 hours on Wednesday nights plus other hours during special events as needed. The position will require a spirit-filled caring and responsible childcare provider who will focus on providing a safe environment for toddlers. Qualifications include experience in caring for young children, and the physical ability to meet their active needs; 2-3 references; and willingness to submit to a background check. CPR is required and First Aid is recommended and can be completed once employed. The hourly pay is \$15-\$20 per hour and is negotiable based on experience and qualifications.

Applicants should contact First Baptist Church, 125 Tappan Street, Spruce Pine, NC 28777. Phone # 828-765-9411 Ext. 301.

**Grassy Creek Baptist Church** - Grassy Creek Baptist Church will have Vacation Bible School June 19-23 from 6:00-8:30 each evening. The theme is "Victory", the Ultimate Pep Rally! For more information or if you need the bus to pick you up, please call the church office at 765-4620.

**Hospice and Palliative Care of the Blue Ridge** Annual Golf Tournament on June 3, 2017 at the Grassy Creek Golf & Country Club in Spruce Pine, NC.

**Mitchell County Baptist Association** - Bible Schools-Bear Creek Baptist Church-June 11-15 6:00-8:30 pm, Berry Chapel Baptist Church-June 10-14 6:00-8:00 pm, Liberty Hill Baptist Church-June 19-23 6:00-8:30 pm, Snow Hill Baptist Church-June 12-16 6:00-8:30 pm, Spruce Pine First Baptist-June 6-8 5:30-8:30 pm, White Oak Baptist Church-July 9-13 5:30-7:30 pm

**Mitchell County Historical Society** - The story of Frankie and Charlie Silver will be presented by John Silver. It is the story of his ancestors. A murder story that continues to capture our interest. Monday, June 19th—6:30 pm Old Kona Baptist Church.

**Mitchell-Yancey Substance Abuse Task Force** - A conference sponsored by Youth to Youth will be held at Queens University, Charlotte, NC on July 17-20. An awesome leadership opportunity to our youth to learn and make a difference with their peers in the fight against drugs in our schools and communities. Some scholarships are available. Contact the Task Force office for more information. Call 828-682-7899.

**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/volunteer> or 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.

**Parkway Playhouse** is excited to present The 39 Steps, which runs June 10-24. Also, announcing a new outreach performance that is free and fun for the entire family.

**Penland School of Crafts**—Summer 2017 Workshops at Penland Say hello to Penland's Summer 2017 workshop catalog, now online in full as a PDF! We're beyond excited to have 97 great workshops on offer this year. Take a look and come join us in the studios to build bikes or books or bowls or brooches or ...?

**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.

**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 Helen's Restaurant in Bakersville 8:00am. 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. (Estatote 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.

**Laurel Branch Baptist Church (Burnsville)** - Seeking bi-vocational pastor, please email resume to [floreecapps@frontier.com](mailto:floreecapps@frontier.com).

**Shoal Creek Baptist Church- Burnsville, NC** - VBS at Shoal Creek June 3-7, 2017 6:00 PM to 8:30 PM— Theme: Galactic Starveyors (based on Colossians 1: 15-16) Commencement celebration Sunday June 11, 2017 @ 11:00 AM, with meal following. Father's Day Service June 18, 2017 @ 11:00 AM

**South Estatote Baptist Church** - Everyone is invited to attend our royal 2017 Vacation Bible School at South Estatote Baptist Church, 32 South Estatote Baptist Church Rd, Burnsville NC 28714. Come and join us as we go Over the Moat, Across the Drawbridge, to the King. June 12-16 from 6-8 pm each night. There will be classes for kids ages pre-K - 12th grade, food, activities and tons of fun. See Whitney Ledford (VBS Director) with any questions. 828-284-5403

### Toe River Arts

JULY 8, 2017-LIVE EVENT - 6-9 PM

Dinner/Entertainment/\$40 PER PERSON

Auction begins at 7 PM

SILENT EVENT - 10 AM-5 PM - reception 4-6 PM

BIDDING IS FREE BUT YOU MUST REGISTER

Burnsville Town Center

**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.

### Mayland Community College

#### SMALL BUSINESS CENTER

The Mayland Small Business Center (SBC) offers high quality training and confidential counseling for entrepreneurs and small businesses. Whether you are considering launching a new business or managing an existing one, The Small Business Center provides resources tailored to fit your needs. If you would like to schedule a free confidential business counseling session or sign up for free small business seminars, contact Mayland SBC Director Allen Cook at 828.766.1295 or email him at [acook@mayland.edu](mailto:acook@mayland.edu). Check out our June classes:

#### Financing Your Small Business

In this class, Mayland Small Business Center Director, Allen Cook, will discuss sources of small business financing and strategies to obtain funds for your business or startup. Explore the advantages and disadvantages of the different types of funding sources. Discover the keys to financing success.

6/1, 1:00-3:00 p.m. Banner Elk Mayland Satellite Campus

#### Learn QuickBooks FREE Series

In this class, you'll discover everything from setting up QuickBooks to handling money in, money out, banking, payroll, and much more. If you would like to use QuickBooks for your business, this seminar series is a great starting point. Computers with QuickBooks will be provided.

6/5 Mon., 6/7 Wed., 6/12 Mon., 6/14 Wed., MW, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Mayland Campus

Best Startup Ideas for Yancey, Mitchell, and Avery Counties (3 Hours) NEW!

What kinds of new businesses have the greatest potential in this area? We will look at data on existing businesses with a further objective of identifying opportunities for new businesses and growth opportunities for existing businesses.

6/6, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Yancey Campus

#### How to Find Your Customers

Discover a variety of market research tools that will give you critical information about your industry and customers. Find the data you need to test the feasibility of a new business. Learn how to perform a competitive analysis and determine your target market.

6/8, 2:00-4:30 p.m. Banner Elk Mayland Satellite Campus

#### JUNE Women in Business: Five Tips for Growth in a Seasonal Economy

Everyone Welcome! Enjoy free lunch while learning business building tactics.

Sponsored by the Western Women's Business Center, Mitchell County Chamber of Commerce, and Mayland SBC! Location to be determined.

6/14, 12:00-1:00 p.m. Mayland Campus

#### TripAdvisor for Your Studio?

Our mountain region is a vacation destination. TripAdvisor provides reviews and rankings of travel related topics such as restaurants, lodging, entertainment, arts related, and local attractions. This seminar will help you look at the advantages of being on TripAdvisor and how it can grow your studio business when managed correctly. Sponsored by the Toe River Arts Council and the Mayland Small Business Center!

6/14, 5:30-7:30 p.m. TRAC Art Resource Center, Spruce Pine

#### Using Facebook to Find and Attract Customers, Part One

A Facebook business page is a great tool to connect and interact with new and potential customers. Learn how it works and what is needed to build the perfect Facebook Business page. Return for part two to build or optimize your Facebook Business page.

6/20, 5:30-7:00 p.m. Mayland Campus

#### Instagram and Snapchat for Business

Learn how Instagram and Snapchat can benefit your small business. Find out the customer profiles of typical Instagram/Snapchat users and how they may relate to your business. Get the basics in this one hour class.

6/20, 7:00-8:00 p.m. Mayland Campus



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Dine In and Carry Out



## The Spiritual Duty of the Wife

By Dr. Tom Walker  
McDowell County



Ephesians 5:22-24 says, "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing."

God assigns duties in the home to both the husband and the wife. In this study, we are going to consider the place of the wife in the home in regard to her husband. She has many duties but it all revolves around the basic one, that being submissive to her own husband.

If we will look to God's Word, we can find out what God expects from the wife. If husband and wife both do what God tells them to do, they can have a successful relationship.

"This verse, taken out of context, has caused many husbands to repress their wives and many wives to be resentful and rebellious. Standing alone, this verse seems arbitrary and unfair. But it does not stand alone. No verse of Scripture stands alone. This verse is preceded by the command that we submit ourselves one to another in the fear of God. What a pity that preachers so often ignore this context when beginning a series of messages on husband-wife relationships. The context includes not only the Holy Spirit's instruction for mutual submission, but also His teaching about the Holy Spirit's infilling—the blessed oil that makes the machinery of marriage run smoothly" (Dr. John Phillips).

The idea of the wife's submission is not very popular and not very widely accepted today. One who resists the direct Word of God is in a state of rebellion against God.

Before I reveal to you what submitting to one's husband means, I want to express to you what it doesn't mean.

First, submission is not just something women are supposed to do. 1 Peter 5:5 says: "Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble." Submission is a matter for both husband and wife. It is a mutual submission, not a one sided one.

Secondly, submission for the wife does not mean she is regarded like a slave. When she does and becomes what God wants her to be, it is then that she is really free. Some men take this idea of submission, and twist its meaning to try to say the wife is to do whatever he tells her to do. That is not so....

Thirdly, a wife submitting does not mean she is never to speak or that her opinion or advice does not matter. She is weaker physically than the man, but not necessarily mentally.

Fourthly, it does not mean that she is to keep her abilities dormant or inactive. Look at Proverbs 31 where the godly woman is portrayed. She is seen as being active and busy.

Fifthly, it does not mean the wife is inferior to the husband. God has a division of labor and responsibility. There should be order, understanding and structure for the various responsibilities in home life.

Now let's look at the Biblical responsibility of a wife and see what submission actually involves. Submission is the action or face of accepting or yielding to a superior force or to the will and authority of another person.

### Submission Is Commanded

When God gives us a command to do something, the only thing to do to make things come out right is to obey Him. There is not one place in the Bible where God commands a husband to force his wife into submission. If he will be the kind of man he ought to be, it will be easier for the wife to submit to him.

### Submission Is to Be Continuous

If it is a way of life, it will promote harmony and unity in the marriage relationship. A consistency should exist in this matter. Most of the time the Greek verb to "submit" is used in a passage, it is present tense, or continual action.

### Submission Is Absolutely Necessary

The Greek word for "submit" is in the imperative mode. That simply means it is something that is necessary and not optional.

### Submission Is Spiritual

Ephesians 5:22 says it is to be "as to the Lord." Since the Lord commands the wife to be submissive in regard to her husband, if she does not submit, she is living in rebellion against Holy God. If she puts herself under the authority of her husband, it is a good test for her love for God. She should see her submission to her husband as an act of obedience unto the Lord. It takes the power of the Spirit of God for the woman to do as she ought to do. That presupposes a woman who has been cleansed by Jesus blood and has been inwardly strengthened by the Holy Ghost.

### Submission Is Positive Not Negative

It stresses what a woman should do instead of what she should not do. It means

continued on page 11

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What If Our Bible Was Taken?

By Billy Graham

Which way would we turn if the country in which we live were suddenly wrecked and all the props gone? As a whole, our nation does not know what privation is. We do not know what sacrifice is. We do not know what suffering is. Suppose persecution were to come to the church in America, as it has come in other countries.

The immunity to persecution that Christians in our country have experienced in the past two or three centuries is unusual. Christ strongly warned Christians that to follow Him would not be popular, and that in most circumstances it would mean cross-bearing and persecution.

The Bible says all who "desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution" (2 Timothy 3:12). Jesus said that as the time of His return draws nigh, "They will lay their hands on you and persecute you" (Luke 21:12). We have no scriptural foundation for believing that we can forever escape being persecuted



for Christ's sake. The normal condition for Christians is that we will suffer persecution. Are you willing to face persecution and death for Christ's sake?

What Would You Do?

Since we have experienced little religious persecution in this country, it is likely that under pressure many would deny Christ. Some who shout the loudest about their faith

would surrender soonest. Many who boast of being courageous would be the most cowardly. Many who say, "Though all others deny Christ, yet I will never deny Him," would be the first to warm their hands at the campfires of the enemy.

Jesus, in speaking of the last times, warned, "Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake" (Matthew 24:9). The Scripture says, "because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold" (Matthew 24:12).

The Apostle Paul, referring to the coming evil day, said, "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" (Ephesians 6:13).

Here are five ways to fortify yourself so that you will be able to stand in that day.

1. Make Sure

First, make sure of your relationship with God. Amos the prophet saw the Day of Judgment fast approaching for Israel. He warned the people to prepare to meet God. The word preparedness should be a key word for everyone.

It is strange that we prepare for everything except meeting God. We prepare for marriage. We prepare for a career. We prepare for education.

But we do not prepare to meet God. Even though most Americans see the storm clouds gathering on the horizon, by and large we are making few preparations to meet God. This is a time for repentance and faith. It is a time for soul-searching, to see if our anchor holds.

Have you been to the cross where Christ shed His blood for your sins? Have you had the past forgiven? Have you come by faith, confessing that you are a sinner and receiving Christ as your Savior? I tell you that this cross is the only place of refuge in the midst of the storm of judgment that is fast approaching. Make sure of your relationship with God.

2. Walk with God

Second, learn now to walk with God in your daily life. Abraham walked with God and was called a friend of God. Walk with God as Moses did on the back side of the desert; when the hour of judgment fell upon Egypt, Moses was the one who led his people to freedom. Walk with God as David did as a shepherd boy; when the time of crisis came, David was prepared to meet it. Daniel and his three young friends walked with God in Babylon, and when trouble came, God was beside them—whether it was in the lions' den or in the fiery furnace.

"The normal condition for Christians is that they should suffer persecution. Are you willing to face persecution and death for Christ's sake?"

However, God does not always deliver His saints from adversity. God says in Hebrews 11 that others were just as faithful as Abraham, Moses, Daniel or David. They, too, walked with God—but they perished. God has not promised to deliver us from trouble.

But He has promised to go with us through the trouble. Stephen was a young man "full of faith and the Holy Spirit" (Acts 6:5). They stoned him to death, but his was a triumphal entry into Heaven. If you are not strengthening the inner man or woman by daily walking with God now, when a crisis comes you will quake with fear and give in, having no strength to stand up for Christ.

3. Assimilate Scripture

Third, we should fortify ourselves with the Word of God. Begin reading, studying and memorizing Scripture as never before. The Bible says, "Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth" (Ephesians 6:14). The truth is the Word of God. We are to be girded and undergirded with the Word. Read it, assimilate it, feed on it, let it be your staff and strength. It is quick and powerful. It is the bulwark of the soul. Too many Christians today are entangled with the affairs of this world, caught in a net of material interest and diversion. Scripture, to many, is little more than a reference book for Biblical facts. It is seldom opened and rarely relished as the spiritual staff of life that it is.

Many souls are anemic and starved for the things of God. They are totally



for Christ's sake. The normal condition for Christians is that we will suffer persecution. Are you willing to face persecution and death for Christ's sake?

What Would You Do?

Since we have experienced little religious persecution in this country, it is likely that under pressure many would deny Christ. Some who shout the loudest about their faith

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# YOUR GOVERNMENT PAGES

## NC Senate District 47



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

The Senate introduced Senate Bill 257 – Appropriations Act 2017 in mid-March and passed it out of our chamber and on to the House in mid-May. The House will make changes to the bill and send it back to the Senate. Differences between the Senate and House bill will be worked out in conference committees. I am hopeful that we will have a state budget in place by July 1.

The Senate's proposed budget of \$22.9 billion increases spending by 2.5 percent over last year's budget and 3.75 percent over actual spending. Our continued focus is improving outcomes in public education, providing generous tax cuts for the middle class and job creators, and saving for the future. This year's budget provides a \$580 million surplus.

On the education front, the budget continues implementing a plan announced last year by investing \$131 million in the first year alone to dramatically increase teacher pay from last year's budget, providing teachers an average 3.7 percent raise this year and 9.5 percent raise over two years, while also ensuring teachers earn far more over the course of their careers. This is in addition to the substantial teacher pay raises legislators passed in 2014, 2015, and 2016. Along with providing \$28.5 million to substantially increase school principal and assistant principal pay, it also directs roughly \$200 million in the first year alone toward compensation increases to state employees.

In health and human services, the budget provides more than \$18 million over two years to add 2,350 new pre-K slots – cutting the waitlist in half for at-risk children; earmarks close to \$3 million to provide support for additional foster children in the system; allocates \$15 million over two years to community health centers, rural health centers, free clinics, and other health services providers in rural and underserved areas that assist the uninsured.

In justice and public safety, the budget funds an opioid prevention pilot, putting in place a quick response team to address the needs of opiate and heroin overdose victims. Also included is more than \$4 million for law enforcement training for North Carolina officers.

Transportation funding includes \$246 million to improve structurally deficient bridges statewide, adds \$130 million to improve safety and conditions of existing roads, and increases the outlay for pavement preservation by \$70 million, extending the life of thousands of miles of roads.

For economic development, the tax burden is reduced for our state's families and small businesses by cutting the personal income tax rate from 5.49 to 5.35 percent in 2018, and by increasing the amount of income that is exempt from state income tax.

These are just a few highlights of the Senate budget. I look forward to reviewing the House budget and working with House members and my Senate colleagues to pass a final budget for the governor's signature.

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.

## NC Senate District 46



Sen. Warren Daniel  
[Warren.Daniel@ncleg.net](mailto:Warren.Daniel@ncleg.net)  
919-715-7823

On May 12, 2017, the Senate passed a \$22.9 billion balanced budget that continues our philosophy of improving outcomes in public education, providing generous tax cuts for the middle class and job-creators, and saving for the future – maintaining a successful approach that has resulted in consecutive years of revenue surpluses, including a \$580 million surplus this year. Our budget plan increases spending by 2.5 percent over last year's budget and 3.75 percent over actual spending and focuses that increase in key areas, like providing about \$600 million more for public education. It continues implementing a plan announced last year to dramatically increase teacher pay – providing teachers an average 3.7 percent raise this year and 9.5 percent raise over two years, while also ensuring they earn far more over the course of their careers. Along with substantially increasing school principal pay, it also directs roughly \$200 million in the first year alone toward compensation increases to state employees.

The Senate budget provides \$150 million in disaster relief assistance to victims of Hurricane Matthew and adds \$363 million to the state's rainy day fund – bringing the savings reserve to approximately \$1.8 billion, its highest total ever. Other key portions of the budget include provisions to fund public school construction in economically struggling, rural counties, add thousands of slots to the pre-K program, and create new economic development funds to help attract major manufacturing employers to the state.

As a result of responsible budgeting decisions over multiple years, millions of middle-class families and job-creating small businesses will also keep more of their own earnings under the Senate plan, which delivers nearly \$1 billion in tax relief, with 99 percent of taxpayers either paying less or paying no state personal income taxes at all.

The Senate budget now goes to the House for their input and consideration. I am hopeful that our two-year budget will be adopted by the 4th of July.

My office is always available to assist constituents with state government issues; and will continue to work with Rep. McHenry's or Rep. Meadows' office with federal issues. Please do not hesitate to contact my office if there is an issue or question with which I can help. Office: 919-715-7823<tel:919-715-7823> Email: [warren.daniel@ncleg.net](mailto:warren.daniel@ncleg.net)<mailto:warren.daniel@ncleg.net>



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# YOUR GOVERNMENT PAGES

## US House of Representatives NC District 11



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

### Health Care

As you've probably heard me say many times by now, protecting people with pre-existing conditions was one of my chief concerns throughout the entire healthcare debate. In fact, the issue of pre-existing conditions was among the reasons I opposed the original version of the AHCA back in March.

While the bill is not my ideal solution, I believe that after weeks of negotiations and substantive changes from the original version, the AHCA now strikes a positive balance between eliminating burdensome regulations, giving states options, bringing premiums down, and providing a more reliable safety net of protection for those at risk. We are also working hard in the Senate to make the bill even better on this issue and on others.

### First Responders Bill

This week I joined Sen. Tom Cotton (R-AR), Rep. Michael Capuano (D-MA), Rep. Elijah Cummings (D-MD), and Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) in introducing a resolution to establish October 28th as a national holiday, "Honoring the Nation's First Responders Day."

The idea for this resolution came directly from a Western North Carolina constituent who, like me, believes that our first responders represent the best of our nation. Having met with hundreds of our first responders in Western North Carolina, I can tell you that their dedication to their community is unmatched.

These are men and women who are consistently willing to put their lives on the line for their friends, neighbors, and country, and they deserve to be recognized for that sacrifice.

## NC House District 118

### Budget work continues

As a co-chair of House Transportation Appropriations Committee, I have continued work on the budget with my fellow chairs and chairs of other appropriations committees.

The budget process is moving along at a pretty good clip this session. The current plan is to have the budget on the floor of the House next week for votes.

If you have any concerns relating to the budget, please get in touch with me or my office.

### Yancey biscuit maker reaches milestone

Emma Peterson of Burnsville in Yancey County is a professional biscuit maker if there ever was one.

On May 11, Emma celebrated her 25th year of making biscuits. Dedication to the perfection of one's craft is a most admirable trait. Emma's contributions to the community are appreciated, and I dropped in to give her a certificate of recognition last week. If you get a chance, Emma's biscuits are worth a stop into Burnsville.

Emma Peterson receiving her certificate of recognition at the Hardee's in Burnsville.

### Miss NC makes rounds

It was great to catch up with Miss North Carolina and Commissioner of Agriculture Steve Troxler at an agriculture event.

McKenzie Jade Faggart was crowned Miss North Carolina in June 2016. She has represented the state well in her role.

Commissioner Troxler was first elected in 2004, and has been re-elected three times since. If you have any questions or concerns about interacting with the state Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, please let me know. I will work with Commissioner Troxler to solve any issues you may have.

### 2nd Amendment stays strong in Burnsville

I dropped by Cooper's Trading in Burnsville on Friday to pick up my new Kimber 45 Super Carry.

I got my concealed carry permit many years ago. Since then, I've taken advantage of the opportunity to protect myself and those around me by carrying concealed.



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



Emma Peterson receiving her certificate of recognition at the Hardee's in Burnsville.



Rep. Rena Turner, Miss North Carolina McKenzie Jade Faggart, Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler and myself.



Shannon at Cooper's Trading in Burnsville displays my new Kimber 45 Super Carry.

## NC House District 85



Representative  
Josh Dobson  
Josh.Dobson@ncleg.net  
919-733-5862

One bill that I was proud to sponsor, House Bill 295, titled Health Care Sharing Expenses Deduction, passed the House unanimously and has been sent to the Senate for consideration. This bill would allow a State income tax deduction for payments to a health care sharing organization. Health care sharing organizations are non-profit organizations that facilitate sharing the medical needs of their participants. Health care sharing organizations provide a free-market alternative to consumers who do not wish to be forced to purchase insurance and do not wish to receive government assistance in the form of state Medicaid benefits. Health Care Sharing organizations have had participants in North Carolina since the mid 1980's and participating households are projected to number approximately 12,600 by 2018. Participants in health care sharing organizations pay monthly share amounts towards the medical expenses of other participants. They currently do not receive a tax deduction for their share amounts under the standard medical deduction provisions in the NC tax code. House Bill 295 will allow health care sharing participants to receive an itemized state tax deduction for qualified health care sharing expenses, in addition to out-of-pocket medical and dental expenses. Deductions would only be allowed to the extent the total expenses exceed 10% of the taxpayers' adjusted gross income. HB 295 will give tax parity to participants in health care sharing organizations, so their tax treatment is identical to other medical and dental expenses. There are several Christian health organizations that this legislation will benefit tremendously. Three examples of these are Medi-Share, Samaritan Christian Health Sharing Ministries, and Christian Health Sharing Ministries. I continue to be grateful for the opportunity to serve the people of the 85th district.



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## Dad's, Do You Want Your Kids to Be Just Like You?

By Pastor Steve Williams  
Mitchell County



A few days ago, a good friend of mine named Rocky Buchanan, in my church introduced me to a song and a video by Country singer Rodney Adkins which is several years old. Now before you turn off what I'm fixing to share because you say I only listen to Christian Music, I challenge you to read the rest of the article, because I believe you will be blessed as I was blessed by listening to the song.

I want all dads to think on this question, because this month is Father's Day, -- "Do You Want Your Kids to Be Just Like You?" That is a tuff question to answer. Reason being, I had a tuff time answering it myself. Many times, as dad's we fail to remember that little eyes and ears are watching and listening to our every word and watching our every move. Thank about it friend, have you ever been somewhere and your child said or did something that they saw you do or heard you say? Now I know they pick up things at school and in the world, but dad's I'm talking about you. See dads, we should be the Greatest Example to our kids, we can be. Reason being, we only have one chance to do the job, and God has given us that al-some responsibility. I want you to read the words of this song and see if it doesn't make you think. You can also see it on You Tube video "Watching You Rodney Adkins"

### "WATCHING YOU"

By Rodney Adkins

*Driving through town, just my boy and myself  
With a happy meal in his booster seat  
Knowing that he couldn't have the toy  
Till his nuggets were gone.  
A green traffic light turned straight to red  
I hit my brakes and mumbled under my breath  
As fries went a flying and his orange drink covered his lap  
Well, then my four year old said a four letter word  
That started with "s," and I was concerned  
So I said, "Son, now where did you learn to talk like that?"  
He said, "I've been watching you, dad, ain't that cool?"  
I'm your buckaroo, I wanna be like you  
And eat all my food, and grow as tall as you are  
We got cowboy boots and camo pants  
Yeah, we're just alike, hey, ain't we dad?  
I wanna do everything you do  
So I've been watching you."  
We got back home, and I went to the barn  
I bowed my head, and I prayed real hard  
Said, "Lord, please help me help my stupid self."  
Then this side of bedtime later that night  
Turning on my son's Scooby Doo night light  
He crawled out of bed, and he got down on his knees  
He closed his little eyes, folded his little hands  
And spoke to God like he was talking to a friend  
And I said, "Son, now where'd you learn to pray like that?"  
He said, "I've been watching you, dad, ain't that cool?"  
I'm your buckaroo, I wanna be like you  
And eat all my food, and grow as tall as you are  
We like fixing things and holding mama's hand  
Yeah, we're just alike, hey, ain't we, dad?  
I wanna do everything you do  
So I've been watching you."  
With tears in my eyes, I wrapped him in a hug  
Said, "My little bear is growing up."  
He said, "But when I'm big, I'll still know what to do."  
"'Cause I've been watching you, dad, ain't that cool?"  
I'm your buckaroo, I wanna be like you  
And eat all my food, and grow as tall as you are  
Then I'll be as strong as Superman  
We'll be just alike, hey, won't we, dad?  
When I can do everything you do  
'Cause I've been watching you."*

I know little to nothing about this song writer, I'm not lifting him up, but the Words of his song. See the words to the song touched me and brought me back to a passage in God's Word. See, these words also touch me, Proverbs 22:6 *Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.* If you were to look up train in the dictionary you would find it to be described as something like this: Training is to prepare for a contest, to instruct by exercise, to drill, to form to a proper shape, to discipline for use. Now, dads that's what God wants us to do with our children. We are to train them by example. You don't teach great athletes to be great, you train them to be great... The Bible does not say Teach your children, though you ought to, it says to Train them. Do you have them in church? Do you have them in Sunday School? Do you have them in Youth Group? How are you training them dad? Do you want your kid to be just like you?

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



# Evergreen Church

## The Love from Which Nothing Can Separate Us

By Rev John McCoury  
Roan Mountain, Tennessee



*I will trust in your unfailing love. My heart rejoices in your salvation. I will sing unto the Lord, For He has been so good to me. Your goodness like the rainfall Washes over me. I dance beneath the starlight, As you're dancing over me. Joy is now my heartbeat. Freedom is my song. So I soar on the wings of your love. I will trust in your unfailing love. My heart rejoices in your salvation. I will sing unto the Lord, For He has been so good to me. The Love from Which Nothing Can Separate Us.* Romans 8:31-39 This is one of the most lyrical passages Paul ever wrote. God has acquitted us. Who then can condemn us? The answer is that the judge of all is Jesus Christ. He is the one who has the right to condemn-but, far from condemning, he is at God's right hand interceding for us, and therefore we are safe. It may be that, in verse 34, Paul is doing a very wonderful thing. He is saying four things about Jesus. (a) He died. (b) He rose again. (c) He is at the right hand of God. (d) He makes intercession for us there. Now, the earliest creed of the Church, which is still the essence of all Christian creeds, ran like this: *'He was crucified dead and buried; the third day he rose again from the dead; and sitteth at the right hand of God; from thence he shall come to judge the quick [living] and the dead.'* Three items in Paul's statement and in the early creed are the same: that Jesus died, rose again, and is at the right hand of God. But the fourth is different. In the creed, the fourth is that Jesus will come to be the judge of the quick and the dead. In Paul, the fourth is that Jesus is at God's right hand to plead our case. It is as if Paul said: 'You think of Jesus as the judge who is there to condemn; and well he might, for he has won the right. But you are wrong; he is not there to be our prosecuting counsel but to be the advocate to plead our cause with one tremendous leap of thought, Paul has seen Christ not as the judge but as the lover of human souls. Paul goes on with a poet's fervor and a lover's rapture to sing of how nothing can separate us from the love of God in our risen Lord. Here is a vision to take away all loneliness and all fear. Paul is saying you can think of every terrifying thing that this or any other world can produce. Not one of them is able to separate the Christian from the love of God which is in Jesus Christ, Lord of every terror and Master of every world.' Of what then shall we be afraid?

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

*Children's children are the crown of old men; and the glory of children are their fathers. Proverbs 17:6*



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## Why I Support SafePlace

By Beth Davis  
Mitchell County



Every month, you hear from someone on the SafePlace Staff.....usually it's Associate Director Tracy Black or I who write the article for the Blue Ridge Christian News. This month, you're hearing from a dear friend and immense supporter of Mitchell County SafePlace. Yes, of course, these are her own words. And, no, of course, we are not revealing her Identity.....because only a handful of folks know her story, and she'd prefer to keep it that way.

"My goal is to bring a sense of reality about domestic abuse. Probably most of you are unaware of anyone who is suffering this fate at the hands of an abuser. Think about it. Does anyone come to mind? How do you recognize such a person? I can assure you that most of you do know someone who is being abused either physically, emotionally, or verbally, or has been in the past.

Much of the time, victims and their abusers present themselves to their friends, family, and the community as the perfect couple whose lives seem to be Envyable.....a perfect marriage, a perfect home, a perfect family; but outward appearances can be deceiving. You may be asking yourself how I know this. I know because I was in an abusive relationship for quite a number of years. It never escalated to physical abuse, but rather was verbal and emotional. The pain wasn't physical, but it was real. The scars aren't visible, but they remain - to this day, they remain - after more than 30 years. His words, his belittling, his criticism, and my doubts about myself and my worth as a person and as a woman often come flying back into my head for no apparent reason and I begin to doubt myself again. The scars of verbal and emotional abuse remains for many years and sometimes for a Lifetime.....even after the abuse has ended.

Remember my saying that people in an abusive relationship present very differently to their friends, family, and their community? That was us. We had a nice home, drove a nice car, owned our own business, went to church every Sunday, and participated in the community. Because of our business, we even did seminars all over the United States, and guess what one of the main topics was in those seminars? Husband and wife relationships! I guess there's nothing stereotypical about abusive relationships!

After years of constant criticism, demeaning, and belittling, I began to believe his words. I was totally convinced that I was stupid, ignorant, and incompetent. According to him, I could do nothing right. After a while, I truly thought I was going to lose my mind. I was suffering from anxiety and depression. Even my physical appearance changed - I lost forty-three pounds! When I finally left the relationship, I weighed 92 pounds.

Then, one evening I was sitting at the kitchen table when he came into the room - evidently upset about something I had done or hadn't done. When he walked past me, he kicked my chair as hard as he could, almost jolting me out of the chair. It was at that very moment that I realized that next time he could be kicking me. I decided that I had to begin to make plans to get out. I was so tired of living like this. I felt so alone. I wish I had had somewhere like SafePlace to turn to - someone to guide me and give me advice; someone I could confide in and trust. So, I intimately understand the need for and the value of the services that SafePlace provides.

I became involved with SafePlace several years ago through a friend. I became aware of the need for their services in our community. I also learned that the entire Mitchell County SafePlace staff is knowledgeable, dedicated, and passionate about their mission to aid victims of domestic abuse, whether it be women, me, or the elderly. They do whatever is necessary to ensure that their clients are safe 24/7, and have every possible opportunity to rebuild their lives apart from their abusive relationships. SafePlace deserves our support!"

If you or someone you know is in an abuse relationship, call our 24-hour hotline at 828-765-4044. If you'd like to volunteer at SafePlace, please call 828-765-4015. Our mailing address is PO Box 544, Spruce Pine, NC, 28777, if you'd like to make a financial donation.

Beth Davis is the Resource Development Coordinator at Mitchell County SafePlace. She can be reached at 828-765-4015 or [bethbdavis60@gmail.com](mailto:bethbdavis60@gmail.com).



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And the Liver Mush Eating Contest!!! The Contest is open to adults 18 years & up. A \$50 cash prize, a trophy and a Liver Mush Festival T-shirt to the winner.

Inflatables and other activities for the kids!! Visit with the vendors and sponsors. There is fun for everyone!

For the motorcycles enthusiast, plans are underway for a Hog on Hog poker run and motorcycle display. More details to come!

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For more information call 828-652-2215 or  
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unprepared for a time of crisis. Store these Scriptures away so that if your Bible is ever taken from you, you will have the Word of God written on the tablet of your heart. Many stories have come out of prison camps, of Christians who had no Bibles but had committed to memory great portions of Scripture. What a comfort, blessing and strength these Scriptures were as they repeated them over and over again to themselves. One missionary who was in a concentration camp for three years in China told me that during that time his greatest regret was that he had not memorized more of the Bible.

4. Pray Always

Fourth, fortify yourself with prayer. The Bible, referring to "the evil day," says, "praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit" (Ephesians 6:18). If we are to stand uncompromisingly for Christ when a national crisis comes, we must rediscover the power of prayer.

The early church knew the value and necessity of prayer. Earnest, fervent prayer preceded every major triumph. Prayer preceded Pentecost. Peter and John were en route to the Temple to pray when they witnessed for Christ, and thousands were converted. Paul and Silas prayed in prison, the Philippian jailer found Christ, and Paul and Silas were delivered.

"God needs men and women who will 'stand in the evil day.' Will you be one of them?"

If Christianity is to survive in a world filled with materialism, the Church must have a revival of prayer. As individuals, we must repent of prayerlessness. The prayer meeting must become the vital institution it was when evangelical Christianity was the mightiest force in the world.

5. Meditate on Christ

Fifth, we must fortify ourselves by meditating upon the person of Christ. Charles Haddon Spurgeon once said, "There have never been 15 minutes in my life when I did not sense the presence of Christ." We must learn again to practice the presence of God. We must say with David, "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer" (Psalm 19:14). Christ must be vitally real to us if we are to prove loyal to Him in the hours of crisis.

Will You Stand?

Today our nation ranks as the greatest power on the face of the earth. But if we put our trust in armed might instead of Almighty God, the coming conflict could conceivably go against us. History and the Bible indicate that mechanical and material might be insufficient in times of great crisis. We need the inner strength that comes from a personal, vital relationship with God's Son, Jesus Christ.

The wheels of God's judgment can be heard by discerning souls across the length and breadth of nations. Things are happening fast! The need for a return to God has never been more urgent.

The words of Isaiah are appropriate for us today: "Seek the Lord while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon" (Isaiah 55:6-7).

God needs men and women who will "stand in the evil day." Will you be one of them? Will you come to the cross and in humility confess your sins to God and receive Jesus Christ as Savior? Will you become one of God's warriors in this crisis hour? You can enlist today in the army of God by giving your life to His Son Jesus Christ and letting Him become the Captain of your soul. "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name" (John 1:12).

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Scripture quotations are taken from The Holy Bible, New King James Version

Celebrate Life

Celebrate Life

Celebrate Life

Calling all Pastors, Community Leaders, or anyone interested in solving some of the issues we face in today's society.

A big before school starts day is being planned for Aug 12 (Rain Day-Aug 19) for all children and teens and even adults. If your church or community group would be interested in having a booth at our "fairgrounds" or just helping out by volunteering with organizing, food or etc. etc. contact Tom Anglin (828-284-0065), Marcus Benfield (828-850-3346) or Doug and Barbara Harrell (467-3644). There will be inflatables for the kids, music for everyone and lots of food.

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# Crossword

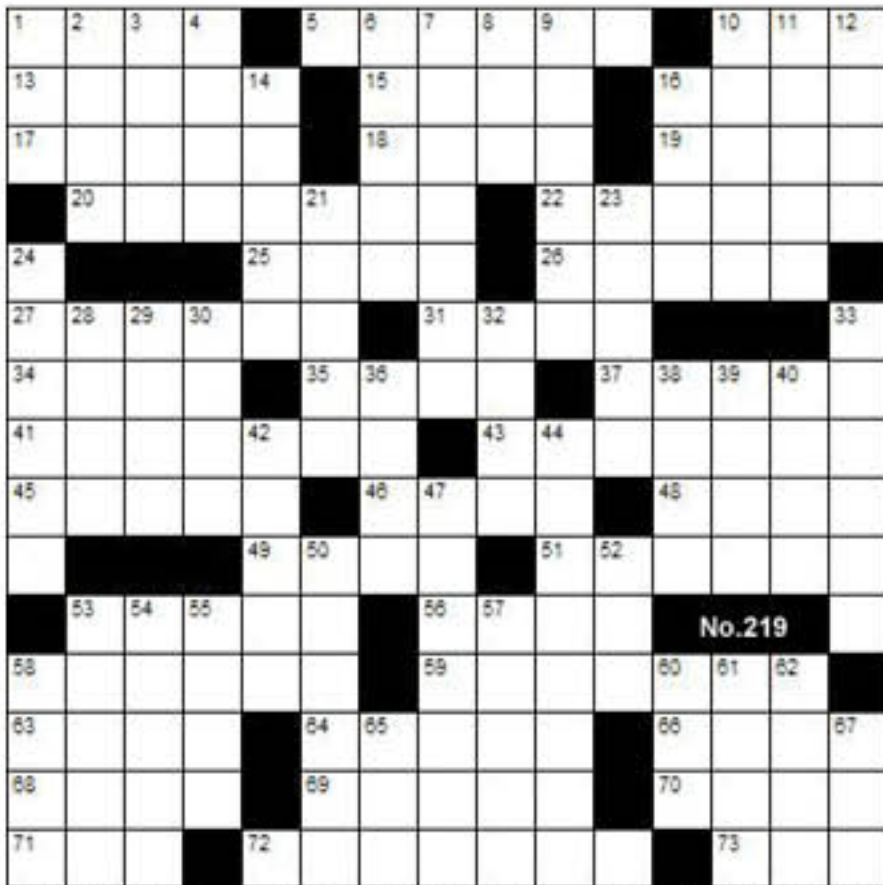
## ACROSS

1 If anyone \_\_\_\_\_ anything to them, God will add to him (Rev 22:18)  
 5 like a day that has just gone by, or like \_\_\_\_\_ in the night (1,5) (Ps 90:4)  
 10 deface (Job 30:13) (KJV)  
 13 they made fifty \_\_\_\_\_ along the edge of the end curtain (Exod 36:17)  
 15 another seed instead of \_\_\_\_\_, whom Cain slew (Gen 4:25)  
 16 Bel bows down, \_\_\_\_\_ stoops low; their idols (Isa 46:1)  
 17 My feet stand on \_\_\_\_\_ ground (Ps 26:12)  
 18 he shall \_\_\_\_\_ them with a rod of iron (Rev 19:15)  
 19 And \_\_\_\_\_ gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air (Gen 2:20)  
 20 The LORD \_\_\_\_\_ his servants; no one will be condemned (Ps 34:22)  
 22 A severe shortage of food (Gen 12:10)  
 25 Above all \_\_\_\_\_, guard your heart (Prov 4:23)  
 26 the treading shall \_\_\_\_\_ out no wine in their presses (Isaiah 16:10)  
 27 not the least \_\_\_\_\_ of a pen, will by any means disappear (Matt 5:18)  
 31 Awake, and \_\_\_\_\_ to my defense! Contend for me, my God (Ps 35:23)  
 34 I will make Jerusalem a \_\_\_\_\_ of ruins (Jer 9:11)  
 35 have made themselves an idol \_\_\_\_\_ in the shape of a calf (Exod 32:8)  
 37 \_\_\_\_\_ said to Ruth her daughter-in-law, "It will be good (Ruth 2:22)  
 41 speak unto us smooth things, prophesy \_\_\_\_\_ (Isa 30:10) KJV  
 43 a snake bites before it is \_\_\_\_\_ (Eccl 10:11)  
 45 who practices divination or sorcery, interprets \_\_\_\_\_ (Deut 18:10)  
 46 Their calls will \_\_\_\_\_ through the windows (Zeph 2:14)  
 48 till thou hast paid the very last \_\_\_\_\_ (Luke 12:59) KJV  
 49 Jacob's first wife (Gen 29:16-18)  
 51 Simon answered, " \_\_\_\_\_, we've worked hard all night (Luke 5:5)  
 53 with every kind of plague as \_\_\_\_\_ as they want (Rev 11:6)  
 56 he has appeared once for all at the end of the \_\_\_\_\_ (Heb 9:26)  
 58 the LORD made an east wind blow \_\_\_\_\_ the land (Exodus 10:13)  
 59 He lay on his bed \_\_\_\_\_ and refused to eat (1 Kings 21:4)  
 63 Trust in the LORD with all your heart and \_\_\_\_\_ not on your

own (Prov 3:5)  
 64 loose the chains of injustice and \_\_\_\_\_ the cords (Isa 58:6)  
 66 See if you recognize whose seal and \_\_\_\_\_ and staff these are (Gen 38:25)  
 68 to another faith by the \_\_\_\_\_ Spirit (1 Cor 12:9)  
 69 She saw the basket among the \_\_\_\_\_ and sent her slave girl (Ex 2:5)  
 70 the boys grew; and \_\_\_\_\_ was a cunning hunter (Gen 25:27)  
 71 power of God unto salvation to every \_\_\_\_\_ that believeth (Romans 1:16)  
 72 according to the \_\_\_\_\_ of years thou shalt diminish the price (Lev 25:16) KJV  
 73 Eye for \_\_\_\_\_, tooth for tooth (Exodus 21:24)

## DOWN

1 Jesus went through \_\_\_\_\_ the towns and villages, teaching (Matt 9:35)  
 2 being not a forgetful hearer, but a \_\_\_\_\_ of the work (James 1:25) KJV  
 3 The last bird Noah sent out to search for dry land (Gen 8:10)  
 4 The creatures \_\_\_\_\_ back and forth like flashes of lightning (Ezek 1:14)  
 6 man's fuel for burning; some of it he takes and \_\_\_\_\_ himself (Isa 44:15)  
 7 nor effeminate, nor \_\_\_\_\_ of themselves with mankind (1 Cor 6:9) KJV  
 8 the exiles who lived at \_\_\_\_\_ Abib near the Kebar River (Ezek 3:15)  
 9 you who live in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the rocks (Jer 49:16)  
 10 The ram that you saw represents the kings of \_\_\_\_\_ and Persia (Dan 8:20)  
 11 while \_\_\_\_\_ of Philistines was encamped in the Valley (1,4) (2 Sam 23:13)  
 12 testified about me in Jerusalem, so you must also testify in \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 23:11)  
 14 filled with food, he became heavy and \_\_\_\_\_ (Deut 32:15)  
 16 holy and reverend is his \_\_\_\_\_ (Ps 111:9)  
 21 In the sight of God and Christ Jesus and the \_\_\_\_\_ angels (1 Tim 5:21)  
 23 Like men condemned to die in the \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Cor 4:9)  
 24 the five Philistine rulers in Gaza, \_\_\_\_\_, Ashkelon, Gath and Ekron (Josh 13:3)  
 28 God said, Let the water \_\_\_\_\_ with living creatures (Gen 1:20)  
 29 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Tim 4:7)  
 30 His ears are \_\_\_\_\_ unto their prayers (1 Pet 3:12)  
 32 boils of Egypt and with tumors, festering sores and the \_\_\_\_\_ (Deut 28:27)  
 33 chariots and their drivers; horses and their \_\_\_\_\_ will fall (Hag 2:22)



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36 looked like \_\_\_\_\_ of glass, clear as crystal (1,3) (Rev 4:6)  
 38 It is God who \_\_\_\_\_ me with strength (2 Sam 22:33)  
 39 leave out (Jer 26:2)  
 40 and your hands \_\_\_\_\_ out violence on the earth (Ps 58:2)  
 42 Now shall the \_\_\_\_\_ tremble in the day of thy fall (Ezek 26:18) KJV  
 44 we are in rags, we are brutally treated, we are \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Cor 4:11)  
 47 As many as I love, I rebuke and \_\_\_\_\_ (Rev 3:19) KJV  
 50 \_\_\_\_\_ your servant's well-being; let not the arrogant oppress me (Ps 119:122)  
 52 \_\_\_\_\_, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find (Matt 7:7)

53 large body of water  
 54 The body of a human being (Isa 58:11)  
 55 I wish I could be with you now and change my \_\_\_\_\_ (Gal 4:20)  
 57 when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will \_\_\_\_\_ you into all truth (John 16:13)  
 58 Know \_\_\_\_\_ that wisdom is sweet to your soul (Prov 24:14)  
 60 an expanse, sparkling like \_\_\_\_\_, and awesome (Ezek 1:22)  
 61 the wringing of the \_\_\_\_\_ bringeth forth blood (Prov 30:33) KJV  
 62 you will bring my \_\_\_\_\_ head down to the grave in sorrow (Gen 42:38)  
 65 if anyone is in Christ, he is a \_\_\_\_\_ creation (2 Cor 5:17)  
 67 Ascribe to the LORD the glory \_\_\_\_\_ his name (Ps 29:2)

Solution on page 14



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Filling in the Blanks of Life

By Marlene Houk  
Burke County

Hebrews 11:11 Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed

Can you fill in these blanks?  
Up and \_\_\_\_\_; In and \_\_\_\_\_. Off and \_\_\_\_\_.

Sometimes, filling in the blanks is easy. Sometimes, we don't pay attention while we're filling in the blanks, and the result creates confusion or hoots of laughter. For example, I complimented the new-born baby on social media and meant to say, "How precious!" Instead, my app decided to fill in the blank with the word, previous! I called a newborn previous! How random is that? Sometimes, game shows and group games center around filling in the blanks. On one particular game show, the host always says, "Survey said...." I can hear his voice now even though I rarely watched it. Mad lib stories fill in the blanks with random words, and people chuckle at the unexpected.

Filling in life's blanks can result in astonishing adventures when you use the tool of faith. God has created mankind with voids that are filled best with His ways. We all encounter the blanks of missing love, a floundering purpose, or perhaps a health or financial crisis. How do you fill in these blanks?

Rather than using fleshly thinking, we need to use the tool of faith to fill in the blanks of our lives. We need to look beyond the brick wall of our circumstances



by using the tool of faith to fill in the blanks that will restore spiritual balance, realign us with His plan and fill in the blank with peace. It is interesting to note that Sarah used her fleshly thinking and cultural background to fill in the blank of her missing baby as told in Genesis. But somewhere on her journey between Genesis and Hebrews 11:11, she learned to use her faith to receive physical strength to have baby Isaac, the hope of future redemption through Jesus Christ. How do I know that she used her tool of faith to look beyond her 90-year-old body and believe, just because God said so? Here's how I know, because she kept aiming toward the possibility of having a baby! She kept following Abraham as he moved from place to place. She kept being his wife. She kept her spiritual eyes on the promise and not her pitiful circumstances. She kept pointing her tool of faith toward God, and He filled in the blanks of her life according to His plan. And she became part of the lineage of Christ because her faith was used to believe God's promises. She changed history, changed her descendants to have the same faith, and chuckled in delight at the result of chubby Isaac dancing in her arms!

When we use our tool of faith to fill in the blanks of our lives, we too can cope with our circumstances, conquer our fears and change the world!

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](mailto:marlenehouk@bellsouth.net)



The Seriousness of Sin

By Pastor Marcus Benfield  
Mitchell County

Well it's hard to believe it is already June, but here we are. I am going to address a subject at the request of a reader as well as a radio listener of mine from the Lenoir area. She wrote me and asked if I could do the message in an article? That being said, I am going to attempt it.

Let me begin by saying some of the material I will be using I gleaned from my brother Chris who pastors in Mt. Airy NC.

I am going to deal with "The Seriousness of Sin." I will be looking at Romans 3: 21-28 as a text for this subject. Here in these verses the Apostle Paul deals with the sin problem very candidly. He also sets forth the doctrine of Grace very clearly here. We will look at four simple yet profound truths in this text dealing with the seriousness of sin. Many people in our society today turn their head at sin, many no longer view things as sin today that were recognized as such by most everyone just Twenty years ago. The important thing to remember is that Sin is Sin! You and I cannot rationalize it, or deny it without calling God a Liar!

1. Let's consider The Magnitude of Our Sin. Verse 23, Sin is universal- All have sinned. Sin is inherited (Psalm 51:5 & 58:3) Sin is Deadly (Romans 6:23 & James 1:15)

2. Let's consider The Measure of Our Sin. Verse 23 All of us have come short, no matter how good we think we are. God has news for all of us.

You may ask how many have come short? As many as have sinned. This verse teaches us that ALL have sinned! Many think works are sufficient, many think just being good is sufficient. Many believe Church attendance, being Baptized or giving money is sufficient. However, the fact remains that All have Sinned and come short of the glory of God!

3. Let's consider The Mediator for Our Sin. Verses 24 & 25

Today many are turning in every direction looking for inward peace. They are looking to self-help literature, physics, horoscopes, Buddha, Allah, the Pope, even TV talk shows. The Bible teaches there is ONE mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus. (I Timothy 2:5) My friends if you and I want total immunity from the prosecution and the penalty of our sins, we Must place our faith and trust in Jesus Christ and be Saved by His grace! Once you as Christ into your heart you can't perjure yourself, you can't be tried twice, when we are saved we receive total immunity! Not only is He our Mediator, but He is also our advocate (our defense attorney if you will). I. John 2: 1 & 2

Finally let's consider the Manner of Forgiveness for Our Sins. Verses 27 & 28 Paul spoke earlier of works. Let me be clear here, we are saved Unto good works! We are not saved by good works! (Ephesians 2:10) Please notice Paul addressed Works AFTER the doctrine of salvation explained in (Ephesians 2: 8 & 9). Also, our salvation is not in keeping the law. It is Entirely of Grace! Paul concludes by reminding us that Man is saved (justified) by faith only, without any deeds of the law. Here we see how justification works. Even though we are all guilty (sinners) we are pronounced Not Guilty because we have trusted in Jesus Christ for Eternal Life!

My friends, I ask you as I conclude this article; Do you realize the magnitude of your sins today? Christian reader, do you have sins that have spread like a cancer and are pulling you down and away from God? Lost person, do you realize that no matter what you do, no matter how good you try to be, you can't do enough to earn or merit a home in Heaven? All of us have only one hope, Our Mediator, the man Christ Jesus! He alone can grant the pardon for our sins! (II. Corinthians 5:17) By His Grace we can be a new creation because of Him!

I hope that as you have read these thoughts you have been reminded of the seriousness of our sin and that we have only one escape and that is through Christ alone. May God Richly bless you and yours and may we never fail to share His Love with all we come in contact with?

Dr. Benfield is the Senior Pastor of Altapass Baptist Church in Spruce Pine. He formerly pastored in Alexander County, NC for 20 years before coming to Altapass in October 2011.



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## Pause...and Consider

### A Listening Ear

By Ken and Jan Merop  
Avery County



A new friend and I sat together over refreshments at a local restaurant. When we first met, I sensed a kinship in her open and smiling face. We connected again while visiting and relaxing...getting to know one another.

By the time our visit came to an end, we knew we were kindred spirits.

Sometimes that is not easy to define. But, in this case, I believe each of us sensed the ability in the other to really hear what was being said; not just the words, but the heart behind the words. And we shared the love of the Lord and our desire to please Him in everything.

As we visited, understanding of each other caused us to laugh and realize our shared thoughts and feelings were safe in our newfound friendship. But listening isn't always easy.

Often we try to come up with an answer while the other person is still talking, longing to spill our thoughts without relying on God's Spirit to help us discern. First, we need to set aside the thoughts coming into our own heads.

Then, when we open our mouths it will not be rashly, but with that gentle wisdom God speaks about in James 3:17, NKJV where it says, "But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy."

It also takes time...a real challenge in today's driven, fast-paced society...to really discover the heart in a person's words. Time is a gift from God. When we set aside time to visit and care about another person, we give a gift and receive one in return. But, today a quick text or e-mail is seen as communicating. We may be in touch...but are we touching one another in a deeper sense?

Recently we attended a conference. There were many speakers that inspired and motivated us. But, one who really inspired me was a 25-year-old young man. Though from this 'now' generation, he spoke with the wisdom of one who has allowed God's Spirit to indwell him.

He sees his life as a vehicle through which he can be an agent of change and reeducate his peers and people of this age. He said that it is important to become very good listeners. Don't just ask questions, ask inspired questions. Have the other person consider how their decisions can bless their family and others. So lend a listening ear that leads to inspired discovery. Selah

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for a sweet-smelling aroma."  
Ephesians 5: 1 & 2*



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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God's Gift to the Animals

By Pastor Kurt Bomar  
Avery County

When I do devotions with a new group of children I love to talk about animals and the gifts that God gave to them.

If you stop and think about it—God gives each and every animal a special gift for survival. I like to ask the children to name an animal and I would then ask them what the special gifts God gave them. It would usually go something like this:

Tigers (they always seem to start with Tigers): That's easy. They have big claws and sharp teeth and can see well at night.

Horses: They can run real fast

Grasshoppers: They can hop long distances very quickly.

Moles: They can hide underground (unfortunately)

Rabbits: They don't have much of a defense mechanism but they are fast and they can breed prolifically ensuring survival of the species.

Butterflies: Many are disguised to look like other ones that don't taste well to birds.

Goats: they have the ability to travel much rockier terrain than their pursuers.

Even a mosquito that can be easily be swatted, can multiply so rapidly we can't keep up with them.

On and on the suggestions would come and I haven't been stumped yet. It's a fun game to play with your kids.

But then I would tell them that there is one animal that God didn't give any gift of survival to and it doesn't reproduce particularly fast. In fact, this animal should have gone extinct many years ago.

It's not big enough to intimidate its predators, it doesn't have sharp teeth, it can't run fast, it doesn't have a good warning system to it's friends, it doesn't have good eyesight and it's not even smart enough to know when it's in danger. It's not even brave enough to protect it's young. Do you know what it is?

It's a sheep. This poor animal is constantly ready to be served up on a platter to any number of predators.

So how did God compensate this poor creature destined for extinction? He gave it a Shepherd.

Without shepherds, every Sheep in the World would be gone in one generation. And here's the spiritual application.

It's interesting that of all the animals in the world, Jesus likens his children to sheep. That ought to make us think. What do we sheep try to do? We try to sharpen our teeth, run faster or get courage. Instead we should realize that just like sheep, we were intentionally designed not to be able to make it on our own.

What we need to remember is that we have a shepherd who can protect us in any and all situations and that the secret to our survival is to just stay close to Jesus!

Selah (think about it)

Kurt Bomar is pastor of Walnut Grove Church.



My Sons and Their Dad  
(A Father's Day Portrait)

By Lana Ellis



Chuck may not be present but he still lives on in our two sons. They're in their 40's and 50's now and as time goes by more of Chuck's traits are seen in them. The oldest one's personality is a lot like his dad. He, much like Chuck, is even keeled, taking things pretty well in stride, often seen sitting quietly observing with a little grin on his face. The younger son reminds me so much of Chuck! I do a double take when he appears wearing one of his dad's hand me down shirts. Not only his looks but a lot of his actions are those of Chuck's.

Growing up in a rural area during the 40's and 50's certain responsibilities were bestowed upon the oldest child, ergo Chuck, the oldest of six children. Not only at home but during the summer months local farmers often called upon him to work in the hay and corn fields. This work ethic continued throughout his adult years, never slacking when it came to his responsibilities and this same ethic can be said about our sons. A trait they also inherited from their dad is their gift of gab which comes easily for both of them whether on their jobs or standing in line with complete strangers. Christian ministry and church music was a very important part of Chuck's life even as a youth. Our sons began at an early age and remain active in their respective churches, ministering and leading worship. Another similarity is their relationship with others and their families, exhibiting trustworthiness, dependability, honesty and faithfulness.

God truly blessed me the day he brought Chuck and me together back in 1962. He continues to bless me this Father's Day as I am given the privilege of seeing Chuck live on in the most precious gifts he could have given me, two terrific sons from whom I gained two "daughters" and four grandchildren.

Psalm 127:3  
Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward.



Lana with sons Brandon and Tony



Chuck and boys

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



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## Mitchell County 4-H

### Summer Fun and More

By Kaley Brown  
Mitchell County



4-H Summer Fun is a special 8-week program sponsored by Mitchell County 4-H through the NC Cooperative Extension. Activities are open to all youth ages 5-18. Workshops are designed for specific age groups and include cooking, farm tours, crafts, robotics, and many more. Early Registration for current 4-H members will be on Thursday, June 1st from 8am-6pm. Early Registration for the public will be open on Friday, June 2nd from 8am-6pm. Workshops are limited to the first 15 registrants. Registration will be accepted at the Mitchell County Cooperative Extension Center located at 10 South Mitchell Ave., Bakersville. (828-289-9810). Payment is expected at the time of registration. No registration for Summer Fun will be accepted over the telephone. Call for more information.

Congratulations to the 4-H Project Record award recipients. 4-H Project Records recognize excellence in 4-Her's through their detailed account of what that 4-Her has achieved throughout their year in a specific project area. 4-Her's are eligible to compete in four age groups: 9-10, 11-12, 13-15, and 16-18. These project records consist of several sections that allow the young person to put into words the activities and accomplishments that happen within their 4-H year.

It is truly a great achievement to complete a Project Record book, and it is an even greater honor to receive an award at the District level for this work. Mitchell County excelled at the district level this year with nine Project Record entries. Every entry sent in by this year's participants placed in the top three within the West District.

These award winners in their respective categories include: Jace Blanton, 9-10, winning Gold in Communication Arts and Silver in Healthy Lifestyles. Jesse Silver, 9-10, winning Gold in Plant Science and Gold in Science and Technology. Jessy-Kate Glenn, 13-15, winning Silver in Animal Science. Josh Silver, 9-10, winning Silver in Plant Science and Bronze in Citizenship and Civic Education. Also, Luke Silver, 13-15, winning Gold in Plant Science and Silver in Science and Technology.

Thank you to all the participants for their hard work and dedication, and a special thank you to all the families and volunteers who helped these young people accomplish this level of excellence. If you would like more information on how your child can participate in Project Records, and many other 4-H activities, please contact Kaley Brown, Mitchell County 4-H agent, at (828) 688-4811 or by email at kaley\_brown@ncsu.edu.

Mitchell County 4-H is pleased to announce that the first annual County Activity Day was a great success. There were 13 presenters total in the following age and subject categories. In the Cloverbud (5-8 age division) Emma Cook, Careers and Entrepreneurship, Perry Kim, Arts and Communications, Evan Payne, Arts and Communications, and Kaj Pittman, Pork Char-Grill. In the (9-10 age division) Jace Blanton, Science and Technology. In the (11-13 age division) Claudia Chandler, Career and Entrepreneurship, Charlotte Hubbard, Poultry, and Jessie and Josh Silver, Livestock. Finally, in the (14-18 age division) Marina Bellington, Forestry and Wildlife, Corbin Buchanan, Small and Companion Animals, Jessy-Kate Glenn, Horse, and Luke Silver, Beef Char-Grill. These 4-H youth, did an amazing job at County Activity Day and those in attendance praised their hard work and dedication to their category as it shown through in their presentations. A huge thank you goes to all the parents, families, and volunteers who helped youth get ready for their presentations. We would also like to give a special thank you to our wonderful judges that helped make this event possible. Thank you to Frank Baskin, Lila Baskin, Gloria Huskins, Kellyn Slotnick, Kim Slotnick, and Adam Lawing. With over 40 attendees to help support these youth it is easy to see what a supportive community we have here in Mitchell County. Thank you to all who attended this year's event! Those who participated in County Activity Day will have the opportunity to go to West District Activity Day on June 17th in Macon County NC. We wish these 4-Her's the best of luck and a big congratulation on all they have accomplished thus far.

Quote Gloria Huskins (County Activity Day Judge):

"I was amazed at the talent and organizational skills those children used to put their outstanding presentations together. Each one with its own style and charm. I was so happy to have been able to be a part of the event."



My name is Kaley Brown, I am most recently from North Carolina State University, where I attended college and graduated with a degree in Animal Science. I grew up in a small town called Robbins in Moore County North Carolina. I grew up showing horses, raising livestock, and working on my family farm. I am very excited to call Mitchell County my new home, and I look forward to being a part of this wonderful community.

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The National Day of Prayer

Power of Collective Prayers

By Monica Henley-Kritz  
Mitchell County

The National Day of Prayer was established in 1775 by the first Continental Congress. Since then, prayer gatherings are scheduled all over America in order to meet and pray for our nation, states, and towns/counties. This year, Mitchell County gathered at Riverside Park on Thursday, May 4 at 12:00 noon and also at 6:30 p.m. Prior to this date, we scheduled Days of Repentance, beginning on Saturday, April 29 and continuing Monday through Wednesday, May 1 – 3, each day at 12:00 noon at Riverside Park at the amphitheater. The reason for the Days of Repentance is that before GOD will even hear our prayers, we must come to HIM and confess our sins, both individually and as a nation. Then, we repent and turn away from those sins, as we turn back to HIM, calling on HIM for our help. During the Days of Repentance, we used the prayer guide from the National Day of Prayer called “7x7” prayer. This is praying for 7 major areas of power and influence for 7 days of the week, 1 for each day. Although we only met for 4 Days of Repentance, we used these different areas for our focus on the 4 days that we met. The 7 areas are: families, government, churches, education, military, media, and business. Each day was very special, and I felt GOD’s presence each time that we met. One special day in particular was a day that it was raining, cold, and windy, so we met under a small picnic shelter, where there was only 1 table. As we gathered around the table, we prayed, read Scripture, and different speakers shared what was on their hearts. It was a very powerful time, as we called upon GOD for HIS help, leadership, and intervention.

On Thursday, the National Day of Prayer, we had 70 – 75 people in attendance at 12:00 noon. We began with the blowing of the shofar, and our Director of Missions, Preacher Daniel Whetstone opening in prayer. As the County Coordinator, I shared the theme for this year, which was: “For Your Great Name’s Sake! Hear us...Forgive us...Heal us!” The Scripture for this year’s theme was Daniel 9:19, “O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive; O Lord, hearken and do; defer not, for thine own sake, O my God: for thy city and thy people are called by thy name.” We must not stop praying now! I do believe that GOD has given us a window of opportunity to return to HIM. We desperately need HIS help! In a letter from Anne Graham Lotz, who is the daughter of Billy Graham, and who is the Chairman of the National Day of Prayer this year, she said: “Now is the time to get serious about repentance and prayer. God promises: ‘And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.’ (Jeremiah 29:13) There can be no casual, half-hearted turning to God – not if we want Him to return to us.... I am led to ask myself...how truly serious am I about seeking God on behalf of our nation? When was the last time I fasted and wept and mourned and confessed the sin of our nation as though it were my own? I believe the future of America hangs on the answer that His people give to that question.” We were privileged to have the students from Tri-County Christian School to come and sing, lifting their voices in praise to God, and to recite Scripture, as well. The song, “King Of the World” was led by Alexis Buchanan, a 7th grade student. Also, a 6th grade student, Josh Hannel, led in prayer. Josh is a Bible drill winner, and his principal describes him as a “prayer warrior.” This was so special and reminded us how important it is to begin as a child and read and learn The Bible, which equips us for life.

At the 6:30 p.m. gathering, there was a downpour of rain with much wind, and it was cold. Because of the weather, we again gathered under a nearby picnic shelter, where there was 1 table. A friend reminded me that in The Bible, rain was a sign of blessing. When there was drought, it was a result of GOD’s judgment or withdrawing of HIS favor. So, I said, “Bring on the rain!” We circled around the picnic table, linked arms, and prayed. We also sang together, led by Joy Young,



and several shared personal testimonies. I had also felt led to ask one of my students, Katie Blair, to come and say a prayer. Katie is a 1st grade student at Bethel Christian Academy, who prays so sincerely from her heart. GOD reminded me of how special children are to HIM. In Matthew 18:3, JESUS said, “...Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.” Ruth Graham said this: “When Jesus put the little child in the midst of His disciples, He did not tell the little child to become like His disciples; He told the disciples to become like the little child.” It was all very touching! The best way I know to describe this experience was that it was so sweet. Sweet, in a way that we felt The LORD’s sweet presence in an amazing way! One thing that was extra special was that before we began, we noticed a fisherman in the river. After we started the service, he stopped fishing and came over to the picnic shelter, took off his cap, and joined with us! How precious of Our LORD to bring hearts together in such a way! He later told us that he was planning to go back to the county in which he lived and go to a prayer gathering at their county courthouse, but he had fished too long and knew he would be too late. So, he joined with us. We should always take notice of things like this, because if we don’t, we may miss special blessings that GOD gives to us!

Our pastor, who was out of town on vacation, told me before he left: “I hope it’s a huge success!” That meant so much and was a great encouragement. As I pondered that, I realized that “my” idea of success had been about who was there, how many were there, and what the weather conditions were. But GOD reminded me, that was not true success. Real success is if GOD was pleased with our gathering...with our hearts...if we were sincere. Real success was that wonderful peace of HIS presence in that tiny picnic shelter, where hearts were knit together in a special, yet unusual way. In other words, I believe this day was a success!

So, ask yourself, am I pleasing to GOD? Am I truly seeking HIM or my own agenda? Do I love HIM first and most, out of everyone and everything in my life? Take a few moments and be still before THE LORD, and be honest. Praise GOD!!!

I do apologize for any confusion on the location of our prayer gatherings. A lady told me that she went to the large picnic shelter, and she saw other people there in their cars, as if they were waiting for something. So, I apologize for any inconvenience.

Monica Henley-Kritz is a member of Berry Chapel in Spruce Pine NC.



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Sudoku

	3				2		9	5
	9		3	5			4	
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## Mountain Piecemakers Quilt Guild

### Quilt Presentation to Veterans on Hero Day May 27

By Carolyn Dotts  
 Mitchell and Yancey County



On Saturday, May 27th, approximately 55 veterans were presented with handmade quilts at Hero Day in Burnsville on the Town Square. The impressive ceremony began about 10:30AM and honored veterans from World War II, Korean War and Vietnam from all branches of service. Letters were mailed to the veterans who received quilts this year inviting them to the presentation. Guild members from Mountain Piecemakers Quilt Guild make these quilts annually to thank our veterans from Yancey, Mitchell and Madison Counties for their service. This year the veterans were seated in front of the stage in the shaded area.



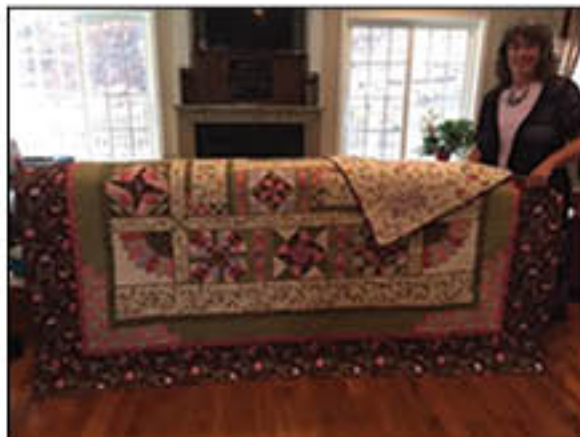
Guild members made all the Hero Quilts as a special service project. Each veteran received a quilt made especially for them. This was the fifth year that of the guild donated quilts to the veterans. Sixty-five quilts were presented in 2016. The guild keeps an on-going list and our policy is to give priority to the World War II and Korean veterans.

Mountain Piecemakers Quilt Guild also constructs an opportunity raffle quilt each year, which was displayed in the Hero Day booth. Sales of these tickets help defray expenses for fabric and quilting of the patriotic quilts. Tickets for the raffle opportunity quilt are sold by members and at many festivals. Patti Booth from Mars Hill won the 2016 raffle quilt. The new quilt for 2017 is already on display, and tickets are available from guild members. Donations are always welcome and can be made at the Mountain Piecemakers booth.

At Hero Day in Burnsville, nomination forms were available at the Mountain Piecemakers booth to request a quilt for a veteran in future years. If you would

like to make a nomination of a veteran who lives in Madison, Mitchell or Yancey counties, visit the booth at any festival to pick up a form. Information needed includes veteran's name, address, phone, branch and period of service. You can take a form and mail it back to the address on the form.

We want to thank the Yancey County DAV and DAV Auxiliary, Blue Ridge Tent and Event



Rental and Yancey Graphics for their help in making this Hero Quilt presentation possible. Our veterans deserve the best, and we were proud to be part of this day. It was a privilege to honor them in this way.

Carolyn Dotts makes her home in Ledger and is a teacher of Exceptional Children at Greenlee Primary School. She is a widow with two sons and five grandchildren. She is a member of Western Carolina Church in Spruce Pine.



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# Habitat for Humanity

## Habitat Heroes

By Robin Warden  
Mitchell-Yancey County

On April 2-3 the North Carolina Housing Coalition invited Habitat for Humanity affiliates around the State to attend a Legislative Day in Raleigh, NC. Pictured here with Representative Michelle Presnell are (r-l) Paul Reeves - Director of Construction Services for Buncombe County Habitat in Asheville, Clark Pennell - Executive Director of Madison County Habitat in Mars Hill and Brian Yaffee - Mitchell-Yancey County Habitat Board member.

Affiliates were invited to discuss support needed to maintain funding for their mission to provide low-income housing for families in need in North Carolina. Under the budget currently proposed by President Trump, Habitat affiliates in NC alone would be faced, in 2018, with the loss of as much as \$10M in federal funding.

Yaffee, who has been affiliated with Mitchell - Yancey and Avery County Habitats over the years shared, "Building Habitat homes is most importantly about improving the lives of children. Families report significant changes in their children's health, especially respiratory illnesses such as allergies and asthma. They spend more time with friends and are proud to bring friends home. They feel safer and more confident about their chances for a better future. Their study habitats and grades improve and significant numbers of children complete high school and enroll in higher education programs".

Mitchell-Yancey Habitat for Humanity is a locally run affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International, a nonprofit, ecumenical Christian housing organization. M-Y Habitat works in partnership with families in need of decent, affordable, and energy-efficient housing. Houses are sold to families who are able to pay a no-interest monthly mortgage and are willing to partner with Habitat and provide 200+ hours of sweat equity helping to build their home or the homes of others. Habitat serves people in need of decent housing regardless of race or religion.



Habitat Legislative Day

Volunteers, pictured here are some of the many Habitat Heroes providing most of the labor, while individuals and corporate donors provide money and materials to build Habitat houses. We welcome volunteers and supporters to join us in "building homes and changing lives. Become a Habitat Hero.

Mountain Air Residents Help Sponsor Habitat Neighborhood Revitalization

Mitchell-Yancey Habitat for Humanity's (M-YHFH) vision is to build safer, more durable, comfortable and attractive, and energy efficient homes. Mountain Air residents will help to make this vision more attainable through grant sponsorship to purchase tools and safety equipment for Habitat's new Neighborhood Revitalization Program

Gary Ray, M-Y Board President states, "In addition to our current mission to build new homes for families in need, we want to serve a larger number of families in our communities".

NR is a holistic approach that broadens Habitat's traditional partnership of new home construction to include home repairs and renovations. Through partnerships with families in need, their neighbors and community coalitions, Habitat seeks to identify families who are unable to afford or receive loans to purchase or maintain their existing homes. The Mt. Air Community Residents Grant will help provide the needed tools and safety equipment for volunteer crews to work on several projects at once across our counties.

After completion of our new Habitat neighborhood in Burnsville in 2016, our affiliate has continued to build a new home in Spruce Pine projected for completion in mid-June. Construction on a new home in Ledger will begin this summer and we continue to seek land in Bakersville for another home.

The affiliate is currently establishing partnerships with key collaborators in county and city governments, educational & social service agencies, faith communities, housing agencies, and community service programs to help in the development of a Neighborhood Revitalization Program focused on helping senior citizens with home maintenance and repairs. Mountain Air Community Fund contributions will help M-Y Habitat play a part in ensuring that our communities' housing stock is safe and durable.

Every little bit helps. Contact Mitchell-Yancey Habitat for Humanity to learn more about how to make a donation that can help create and maintain better homes in our community.

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Mitchell.yancey.hfh@gmail.com  
(828) 766-9000

Robin Warden is the Public Relations for Mitchell, Yancey Habitat for Humanity.



Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him.  
Psalms 103:13

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