Life Lessons
By Doug Hazelbaker

The following article is from Family Life Ministries and was so appropriate for Father’s Day that I wanted to share it rather than write something of my own.

FATHER: The Six Attributes of a Credible Father Seminar, What’s New?
The following blog post is an edited version of a Father Ken Anthony’s sermon children don’t listen to!

If there’s anything in shortage today it is real fathers that take responsibility for their actions and the care of the financial, spiritual, and emotional well-being of their homes. Real fathers serve God; real fathers are men of action; real fathers prepare their children for adulthood; real fathers take responsibility, and real fathers are reliable. Today I’m going to talk about six attributes of good and godly fathers using the acronym FATHER.

Key Attributes of a Good Father

The “F” in father stands for Faithful — Good Fathers are Faithful. Good fathers are faithful people. They are first faithful to God and trust God with their whole heart, soul, and mind. Good fathers believe in God’s promises; that God will preserve their families, and that our good Lord will provide their families everything needed for salvation. Good fathers accept their role as the spiritual head of the household and set the tone for family worship. Good fathers know God’s word; they have an active prayer life, attend church regularly with their families, and obey God’s commandments.

The Bible lifts up the examples of several faithful fathers: St. Joseph, Jesus’ earthly father; and the story of the man who helped the angel to bring his son to the temple. Abraham faithfully believed in God’s promise that his wife Sarah would bear a son at over ninety years of age and he would be the father of a great nation. The “A” in father stands for Action — Good Fathers are People of Action. Most dads like to watch their sports on television; some have a few hobbies, and engage in some “down time” to relax. Despite occasional laziness, good fathers are men of action, especially when their families need them. Good fathers just don’t sit there, they step up into action when the toilet overflows, the garbage disposal breaks, or when something important around the house that needs fixing.

Good dads know how to get things done; they solve problems, and always rise to the occasion.

Good fathers also install a good work ethic in their children and teach by example. Children need to see hardworking fathers and good fathers challenge their children to learn through activity. Good fathers watch over their children and give them the space they need to try new things; learn from the mistakes they make. Good fathers are active and engaged parents.

The “R” in father stands for Teacher — Good Fathers are Teachers. Good fathers are teachers and prepare their children to enter adulthood and face the tough world around them. This means that fathers give their children survival skills that will help transform them into successful adults. Unfortunately, most children do not receive any of the advice of their fathers. In order to be good teachers, fathers must be credible and earn their children’s trust and love. Ephesians 6:4 states: “Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.” Here St. Paul is cautioning fathers not to criticize their children, but instead focus on teaching them with the same love and understanding that our Lord used when teaching the disciples.

The “E” in father stands for Hope — Good Fathers offer Hope to their families. Good fathers are a source of hope and inspiration for their families. Dads are the family’s pillar of strength and they are the ones that tell us that things will be all right when tough times are around the corner. Even though dads complain, good fathers are optimistic and resilient because they trust God.

Good fathers also trust their children and constantly encourage them to pursue their passions, fulfill their dreams, and plan for their future. Claris Booth Luke said, “Where there is no faith in the future, there is no power in the present.” In contrast, good fathers are as the Father found in the Parable of the Prodigal Son; good fathers are forever hopeful and inspire their families to push beyond themselves.

Finally, the “H” in father stands for Healthy — Good Fathers are Reliable. Good fathers are reliable, responsible, and consistent. They work hard to “bring home the bacon” and provide for their family’s needs. Good fathers are also helpful in times of crisis.

Sadly, many men today are not consistent in their fatherly duties and neglect to see the importance of their role as a father themselves. Fathers need to be reinstated to the level of importance that God intended for them! American morality and spiritual integrity is at an all-time low because of the declining value placed on the role of the father in today’s society.

Children need attentive and reliable fathers to be their role models.

Newspaper columnist Abigail Van Buren wrote, “If you want your children to keep their feet on the ground, put some responsibility on their shoulders. Responsibility isn’t a curse; it’s a blessing.” Booker T. Washington said, “Few things help an individual more than to place responsibility upon him and to let him know that you trust him.”

Yet, in order for children to grow up into responsible adults they need a stable and reliable role model. Good fathers are consistent in how they meet life’s challenges. Irresponsible people run away from problems; unreliable fathers make excuses for their inconsistent conduct, and never lead a life of integrity. Good fathers are of proven character; they are faithful to their calling, and are reliable to those that need them.

A father’s influence is paramount to a child’s development into a happy, well-adjusted, productive adult. Fatherhood is not motherhood; however, it is an active rather than passive activity. Good fathers are involved in their children’s lives and look out for their best interests. Dads have to make hard choices and realize that popular “decisions are not always in the future.” Good fathers are able to discern and develop their children’s hearts, souls, and minds.

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God’s Love
By Billy Graham

The following is adapted from the message Billy Graham preached June 3, 1973, to some 1.1 million at Yoido Plaza in Seoul, South Korea.

In 1955, I was here in Korea. It was at Christmas-time, and it was very cold in all my life, and I toured along what is now the DMZ. I was at Heartbreak Ridge, and on Heartbreak Ridge there were 12 soldiers who were huddled together.

An enemy snaked through the line. He threw a hand grenade into the middle of them. It was going to go off in three seconds.

A soldier saw it and jumped on top of it. He grabbed it, held it to his heart, and it exploded. He died, but his buddies were saved. They took what remained of his body to the United States, and when they held the memorial service for that soldier, the source of the service was the same text that I want to use today: John 1:13.

It says, “Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends.” Jesus said this just before He was going to go to the cross to die for the world. He was having His last meeting with His disciples. And He said, “I have one commandment to leave with you. Love one another” (Cf. John 15:12).

Billy Graham in 1973 at Shea Stadium in Flushing, Queens, N.Y.

A big thunderstorm hit not far from where I live. It destroyed many homes. One man was killed in his car. Today there are many people whose body is alive but whose soul is dead. They heard the house falling down. He grabbed his two little boys and put himself on top of them. People found them later. He was dead, but his two sons were alive. They had given his life for his sons.

The Bible says that God loves you. I want us to think about God for a moment. Do you believe in God? The Bible tells us what kind of a God He is. He is the creator of the universe. “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” (Genesis 1:1). The Bible says, God is not only the creator, but God is a spirit. The Bible says, God does not have a body like yours. And because God is a spirit, He can be everywhere at the same time. When I am here in Seoul, I cannot be in New York or in this classroom by the same time because I am bound by a body. But God is a spirit.

The Bible also tells us that God never changes. The Bible says, “I am the Lord, I am the Same” (Malachi 3:6). The Bible teaches that God is a holy God. And because God is righteous and holy, He is also a God of judgment. There is a Day coming.

Jesus said, “Every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment” (Matthew 12:36). The Apostles Paul and God has appointed a time in which He will judge the world (see Acts 17:31). You will have to give an account of every word you ever said, everything you ever did, every thought that you ever had.

But the Bible also teaches that God is a God of love.

The reason God created the human race in the first place was because He loved. He wanted some other creatures in the universe to love. So, He created man and woman and put them in a beautiful garden. God said, “You can have all the fruit in the garden except one tree. There is one tree in the garden that you’re not to touch. If you touch it you will die” (see Genesis 2:17). And Eve looked at it, and it tempted her and she came to Adam in her ear: “Take some of it. It will make you very wise, and it will make you like God, and when God said you would die if you eat it, He didn’t mean it.”

Eve could stand the temptation no longer. She picked up the fruit and started eating. Adam also got some and ate it. Then they were both naked, and a lot of people have been since then has been sick with a disease called sin. It wasn’t the fruit that made them sick. It was the fact that they had disobeyed God and broken God’s law. And the whole human race has that disease. We read the newspapers. We watch the television. We know that something is wrong with the human race. What is it?

The Bible says, “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23), and “The wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23).

The Bible teaches that there are three kinds of death. There is the death of your body. All of you are going to die. We know that, but you can also be alive and go on. The Bible also says that your body is going to die toward God. And you don’t have peace, you don’t have joy, you don’t have happiness, you don’t have assurance that you’re going to Heaven. It is your soul that’s dead, and your soul needs God.

The third kind of death is when your body dies but your soul lives on, separated from God. And the Bible says that for that soul, the future life becomes one of weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth. The Bible has many words to describe the future of the lost soul. The Bible uses the word perish. The Bible uses the word condemn. The Bible uses the word punishment. The Bible uses the words everlasting fire. The Bible uses the word hell.

Whichever word is used, this death is a terrible thing. “For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses his own soul?” (Mark 8:36).

But the Bible tells us that God sent His Son to rescue the world from the grip of our rebellion, from the grip of our sin. God said, “I love you. I love the human race, I want to forgive them of their sins.”

But how could He do it? He said, “If you resist against Me, you’re going to die.” He had to keep His word, or He would have been a liar. So, what did He do? His Son, Jesus Christ, volunteered to come and live among us.

But the Bible tells us that God sent His Son to rescue the world from the grip of our rebellion, from the grip of our sin. God said, “I love you. I love the human race, I want to forgive them of their sins.”

—Billy Graham
Hospice of the Blue Ridge

Celebrates Blessing of the Hands

By Brent Price
Mitchell County

When our hands respond to the calling of our hearts they carry out the sacred work of love. Our hearts and hands can indeed work miracles.

In honor of Nurse Week Hospice of the Blue Ridge recognized the calling of our nurses through the Blessing of Hands. This hand-washing ritual affirms their selfless dedication to the patients and families in their care. Other staff members were also invited to offer their hands for blessing as well.

As our nurses and other staff were blessed, they dried the hands of the nurse that followed as a witness to their servanthood. The Blessing of Hands reminds us of the importance of caring for the soul, especially when that service is so vital to those we serve.

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

I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.
3 John 1:4

Farm Bureau Women’s Committee

Cow Pattie Bingo

By Gloria Hackias
Mitchell County

Would you pay $35.00 to win $500.00?
If so, we have a great opportunity for you!!
Mitchell County Farm Bureau’s Women’s Committee will be hosting an exciting event…Cow Pattie Bingo
Here is how it will work:

We will sell 100 rectangle spaces at $25.00 each. We will set up a corral and mark off a grid on the grass with 50 rectangles. We will draw numbers from the hat for each individual who has purchased tickets and assign numbers before the event. Then we will release the Baby Cow in anticipation of who the lucky recipient of a nice fresh Cow Pattie might be. This lucky person will win $500.00. One Cow will be released at 10:00 AM and another Cow will be released at 12:00 PM. We will have 3 drawings and 2 winners!!

The event will take place at the Rhododendron Festival June 16th on the Creekwalk in Bakersville, NC
Proceeds will support the Annual Women’s Committee Scholarship and Mitchell County 4-H Livestock Club
Please help us support these great causes by purchasing your tickets today.

YOU may be a winner!!
Please come join us for the festivities!!

Gloria Hackias is County Liaison/Licensed CSR at Mitchell County Farm Bureau and attends Altogress Baptist Church.

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“See Myself in Your Eyes”

By Preacher Chris Rathbone
Mitchell County

This may be a story I’ve shared before, but even so, I think it bears repeating. It was probably when he was 4 or 5 years old. I and my oldest son, Gabriel, were wrestling around on the sofa one day. He was on my lap as we were laughing, pushing, pulling, etc. All of a sudden, he stopped and said, “Daddy, wait a minute!” He put his little hands on my cheeks and pulled my face close to his as he looked intently into my eyes. As I was wondering what he was doing, he suddenly exclaimed with excitement, “Daddy, I see myself in your eyes! I really can!” How blessed we were this while we were wrestling around I don’t know. Somehow, he realized that he could see his reflection in my eyes. He would say “Open your eyes wide Daddy so I can see myself.” I was more than happy to oblige. He sat there for several minutes holding my face in his little hands with his nose almost touching mine. I looked into my eyes and big smiles spread across his face. For whatever reason, this seemed to intrigue him for a while. Then as with most kids, his feet hit the floor running and he was off to explore elsewhere.

If you have been fortunate enough in this life to have children, you have received a great blessing and privilege from God. In our culture today, children are sometimes seen more as a nuisance than a blessing. Abortion runs rampant today in most cases, not for health concerns, but because a mother or father don’t want a child to “interfere” with their life or career. We have become a selfish and self-centered society which thinks more about ourselves than we do others. Society sees divorce as the easy way out instead of putting the work into a marriage to make it strong. Somehow, the idea of a God-centered marriage has become an old-fashioned, outdated concept and we are seeing the detrimental effects of this assault with each generation that comes. We are raising what we have been taught. In the previous generations, Satan is working tirelessly to destroy the biblical truth of what a family is to be, even to the extent of trying to redefine what marriage has been for thousands of years. However, the truth of what marriage and family is supposed to be still stands, even with our failure to obey and fulfill God’s commandment, it does not change His truth.

Where do we begin in rebuilding what we have allowed Satan to destroy? First, I believe it begins with repentance. That’s not a popular term in our world. No one likes to admit their sin and failure. Repentance is not just feeling sorry or bad about what one has done; repentance is turning away from a sin to not commit it anymore. Not only do we need to turn away from the wrong way we have been doing marriage and family, but we must turn toward the ways God wants us to live out our marriage and family.

Secondly, we must pray for God’s help. The onslaught of Satan is bringing to our marriages and families an attack from spiritual wickedness in high places. We must pray for the power and help of Almighty God to give us strength to fight this spiritual battle that Satan has declared on our marriages and homes. Jesus is our only hope. Apart from Him we can do nothing. To reclaim what God desires our homes to be we must pray for His help.

Next, I believe men need to step up to the plate. Regardless of what our world seems to believe, God has ordained man to be the head of the household. I’m not talking about a man being a dictator, or “boss hog” to his wife and kids. What I am talking about is men taking the responsibility and being accountable to what folks called them to be as husbands and fathers. Men must lead their families. Loving our wives as Christ loved the church and raising our children to follow God. We have become so influenced by the society around us that we neglect to fulfill what God has commanded us and wonder why our families are in such dire straits. We need men to be men and realize that God has called us to be more than what the world is telling us. Our lives are not just about careers, money, material things, entertainment, hobbies, etc. God has called us to lead our wives and children. God has called us to be providers both spiritually and physically to our families. God has called us to glorify Him in all we do. Our sons will learn to be men by watching us. Our daughters will learn what kind of husband to pray for by watching us. This should make us all stop and take a serious look at how we as men are fulfilling our responsibilities before our families and most importantly before God.

Whether we realize it or not, our children will be a reflection of who we are. We only have them for a few short years until they go out to raise their own families. What legacy are we leaving them to pass on to the next generation? One day, God willing, when my boys are wrestling with their kids, they will see a reflection of themselves in their Daddy’s eyes. Not just a physical reflection but a spiritual one that will pass down by their Daddy before them.

God help us as men to break this cycle of destruction that has wrecked havoc on our families. God help us to see our reflection in His eyes, so healing and restoration will come to our land. May we be able to look at our Heavenly Father and say “Father, I see myself in your eyes!”

Isaiah 18:19 “The father to the children shall make known thy truth.”

Preacher Chris Rathbone serves as Pastor at Mine Creek Baptist Church.
Mercy
By Judy Griffin
Away and Mitchell Counties

And he said, He that showed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise. (Luke 10:33, KJV)

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. (Matt. 5:7, KJV)

I once had an argument with a Christian man about the message of the parable of the Good Samaritan. It was his position that Jesus was using this opportunity to shame His enemies as they sought to discredit Him. It was my position that Jesus was responding to the challenge of this ‘expert in the Law’ with an eye on the potential of this teacher to gain new understanding that could shape his perspective and thus impact the future for him AND through him, for others!

Since you are reading this, I don’t have to worry too much about your disagreement with my position. (Because talking to this newspaper could upset the people around you... )

Imagine, if you will, the power of the Lord’s words if this man later saw Jesus receiving no mercy at the hands of those who beat, whipped, mocked, and crucified Him. Jesus would be the one having been beaten, and this teacher would find himself in the place of the people in the story confronted by the choice to extend mercy or to simply pass by and do nothing. I think this teacher may have had his ‘words’ in his ears and in his heart... “Go, and do thou likewise.” “Go and Show mercy”.

Mercy is shown in many ways in the community in which I serve. It is shown by staff as they provide attention to an inmate who has experienced the serious injury or death of a loved one, and by case managers who regularly follow each one to encourage him to maximize the opportunity he finds before him, to grow and to learn and to change.

Mercy is personified in the form of instructors from Maryland Community College who come into the institution to teach classes for Adult Basic Education and GED. They come with the desire to help the men learn the basic skills for success when they are released one day.

It is shown by offenders to offenders when they know that one of their fellow residents has been struggling emotionally or spiritually, and they listen to his pain. And it is shown by Community Volunteers who come into the institution on a regular basis to inspire, to teach, to equip incarcerated men for life on the outside. (Just to name a few.) Such acts of mercy are common on the inside.

In May, a group of men came showing mercy to some of the men who reside in our prison. (Karios) They came to listen-listen and love-love. And as a result of their message of God’s mercy, for some, Hope has come to life in this place.

On July 28, a team of volunteers from the outside will come inside and demonstrate mercy once again through a One Day with God Camp. On this day incarcerated men and their children will enjoy a full day of connection, love, fun and food wherein the children are ‘blessed’ by their dads in words and actions.

In the Fall, volunteers will begin serving those who are incarcerated with the opportunity to gain college credits through the Community Education Program provided through UDC. Mentors currently being sought in this area who are willing to show mercy by giving of their time, talents and training to assist inmate students with their studies as tutors and encouragers beginning in the Fall.

Each of these demonstrations of mercy has the potential to change lives forever! When the men see that someone has come to help them in their time of need, they learn the meaning of mercy firsthand, in a tangible way that is hard to deny.

There is really no need to argue about it all. For the Lord said, the merciful will obtain mercy. If you are interested in showing mercy by giving of your resources of time, money and/or experience, please feel free to contact me at joseph.griffin@ncdcp.gov and I will discuss with you how we might make that happen.

Judy Griffin is a pastor of Central Baptist Church in Spruce Pine and Community Funded Chaplain at Avery-Mitchell Correctional Institution.
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Franklin Graham Preaches the Gospel in Lisbon, Portugal
By Franklin Graham

Recently, some people have had discussions about the crisis in evangelism today, almost referring to it as a politically related term. I can't speak for others, but I'm certainly not a spokesperson for any kind of evangelical movement, but I can tell you what I believe.

I believe in God. I believe in His Son, Jesus Christ. And I believe in the Holy Spirit. I believe my God is three in one. I believe that God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to this earth to take our sins. That He died on a cross and shed His blood for all the sins of mankind. I believe He took our sins to the grave, and I believe in the resurrection. God raised Him to life on the third day.

This is God's Gospel—and I believe there is supernatural, Holy Spirit-filled power in this message. Jesus told us to go into all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. I believe without Christ, a soul will be lost, condemned to hell for all eternity. This should motivate all of us to share the Good News of God's love to a sick, dying and compromising world. I am called and committed to preaching this message as long as I have breath, until the Lord returns.

I am also committed to taking Samaritan's Purse and the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association into this new millennium, proclaiming this Gospel to as many people as we possibly can through every means possible.

I just finished preaching in Lisbon, Portugal, where we had nearly 30,000 people attend, with hundreds responding to the invitations to confess their sins, to repent and by faith believe in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Starting in May, I'll be going to California and the Pacific Northwest to pierce the "blue wall," not for politics, but for the Gospel. The blue wall represents progressive secularism, which is anti-God. I will be preaching in outside venues in 17 cities. The only hope for California, the Pacific Northwest or any other place in the world is the Gospel. Then when we finish the West Coast, I'll be going to England, Armenia and Mexico this year.

In addition to presenting a clear Gospel message during our tour of California and the Pacific Northwest, I will be asking for a renewed commitment to prayer and intercession on behalf of our country. We are in deep trouble as socialist-progressive groups have dangled on their efforts to turn our legislatures, schools, and communities into showcases for a godless, secularist agenda that openly hostile to the Christian faith. But I want to do more than just ask people to pray—though that is paramount, I also want them to be sure to engage in the political process, examine candidates' records, and be sure to turn out and vote in the upcoming mid-term elections.

As I have said before, I believe God has given us a brief window of opportunity to at least slow down, and with God's help perhaps reverse, the steep decline that has put America in serious moral jeopardy.

The past year has seen some progress. A conservative Supreme Court justice has been appointed under the Trump administration. Steps have been taken in the White House to halt and protect religious liberty. Executive orders have been issued that protect the rights of those with sincerely held religious beliefs.

I am grateful for this, but the battle lines have been drawn, and the voices of those opposed to people of faith are growing louder by the minute. Their attacks against the sanctity of marriage and the right to life are more abusive than I can even describe.

It may seem a bit early to talk about it, but I believe the mid-term elections coming up this fall are crucial in determining whether our nation will continue to safeguard our religious liberties. Now is the time to inform yourself on how the agenda of these running for office slings with basic Biblical principles. Now is the time for churches to gather congregations together for focused prayer on behalf of our nation. Now is the time for the Body of Christ to stand boldly together for our faith and Biblically informed convictions.

Just a few weeks ago, a bill to stop men from using women's restrooms was defeated in the voting booth in Anchorage, Alaska. This new law would have meant that people would be required to use the restrooms, dressing rooms, and locker rooms that match the sex listed on their birth certificates. It was voted down by a very narrow margin—but only 35 percent of the city's registered voters even cast a ballot! It makes you wonder how the outcome would have been if every Christian and every church in Anchorage had gotten behind it.

My father was never afraid to take a stand for what he knew was right. He decried racial segregation in the '50s and '60s and refused to conduct Crusades unless people of every color were allowed to participate. He was behind the Iron Curtain in the '70s and '80s to preach the Gospel to communist countries, despise strong opposition. He was never hesitant to engage the culture, because he knew he was God's ambassador to a world that was lost and dying without Christ.

And that's exactly why I will continue to stand firmly against the godless proponents of secularism and progressive socialism who advocate destructive legislation and an antagonistic to the basic moral precepts of the Christian faith. If underemployed in upcoming federal, state and local elections, they will do all they can to silence us. The danger is real. Very real.

I promise you, I will never remain quiet about the sure testimony of Scripture on clearly defined moral concerns, because it is the authoritative Word of God that, when adhered to, brings all the blessings of obedience. However, when ignored, rejected and ridiculed, the bitter, destructive fruit of disobedience is not far behind.

This is not a time to relax our vigilance. This is not a time to withdraw from the culture. This is not a time to remain quiet. This is a time for believers to pray fervently, work steadfastly and engage the world around us with the truth of God's Word and the eternal hope of the Gospel in our neighborhoods, in our schools, in our workplaces, in our communities.

"The righteous are bold as a lion" (Proverbs 28:1).

"I'm going to continue to do what I have been doing for some 40 years—feed the hungry, clothe the naked, provide medical care for the sick, bring comfort to those ravaged by wars and storms—so that I can reach people with the truth of God's love, that He sent His Son Jesus Christ to earth to take our sins to the cross. Evangelism is simply reaching the lost with this message. We're concerned about how we can reach more, and not get airdropped. A number of years ago I wrote a slogan that said, 'Just Do It!' That's our job—that's what we are to do today.

I'm not interested in running in all kinds of directions. I'm interested in focusing on one direction—reaching lost souls with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is calling people to cross the line from death to life, in Him. That's evangelism. And what's evangelism should be about. ©2016 BGCA

Reneved Franklin Graham is President and CEO of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association and of Samaritan's Purse, an international Christian relief organization.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3:16

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June 2018 - Blue Ridge Christian News page 10
A Mother’s Apron String

By Rev. Mark H. Creech

Pastor and radio-Bible teacher, Clark Swindoll, once shared a story about a good friend who was raised by a godly pastor’s wife. The friend said his mother used to rock him to sleep, not by singing little ditties and lullabies, but by singing to him the great hymns of the faith. He said he could remember quite well his mother humming over the crib and singing, “A Mighty Fortress is our God,” “And Can It Be?,” “More Love to Thee, O Christ!,” “My Jesus I Love thee!,” “Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing.” She sang the deep songs. And he said, “I remember I remember the hymns.” In fact, he said, “when I got into church, I had heard and learned most of the hymns.” Swindoll added that this young man’s mother had made an investment in his life that would always be with him.

A cartoon, from several years ago, shows a baby kangaroo peeping out of its pouch. The caption underneath read, “His mother determines his point of view.”

The virtues things we learn at home are bonds that stay with us throughout life.

Laura Z. Richards beautifully makes this point in The Apron String, where she writes:

“Once upon a time a boy played about the house, running by his mother’s side, and as he was very little, his mother tied him to the string of her apron.

“Now, she said, ‘when you stumble, you can pull yourself up by the apron-string, and so you will not fall.’

“The boy did that, and all that went well, and the mother sang at her work.

“As by and by the boy grew so tall that his head came above the window-sill, and looking through the window, he saw far away green trees waving, and a flowing river that flashed in the sun, and rising above it, blue peaks of mountains.

“But, Mother,” he said, ‘untie the apron-string and let me go!’

“But the mother said, ‘No, my child! Only yesterday you stumbled and would have fallen but for the apron-string. Was yet a little, till you are stronger.’

“So the boy waited, and all went as before, and the mother sang at her work.

“But one day the boy found the door of the house standing open, for it was stormy weather. He stood on the threshold and looked across the valley, and saw the green trees waving, and the swift-flowing river with the sun flashing on it, and the blue mountains rising beyond. And then this time he heard the voice of the river calling, and it said ‘Come!’

“When the boy started forward, and as he started, the string of the apron broke.

“‘Oh! How weak my mother’s apron-string is!’ cried the boy, and he ran out into the world, with the broken string hanging beside him.

“The mother gathered up the other end of the string and put it in her bosom, and went about her work again, but the song no more.

“The boy ran on and on, rejoicing in his freedom, and in the fresh air and the morning sun. He crossed the valley and began to climb the foot-hills among which the river flowed swiftly, among rocks and cliffs. Now it was easy climbing, and again it was steep and craggy, but always he looked upward at the blue peaks, beyond and always the voice of the river was in his ears, saying ‘Come!’

“But by and by he came to the brink of a precipice, over which the river dashed in a cataract, foaming and flashing, and sending up clouds of silver spray. The spray filled his eyes so that he did not see his footing clearly, he grew dizzy, stumbled, and fell. But as he fell, something about him caught on a point or rock at the precipice-edge, and held him, so that he hung dangling over the abyss; and when he put his hand to see what held him, he found that it was the broken string of the apron, which still hung by his side.

“‘Oh! How strong my mother’s apron-string is!’ said the boy. And he drew himself up by it, and stood firm on his feet, and went on climbing toward the blue peaks of the mountains.”

The Scriptures instruct, “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it” (Proverbs 22:6). Contrary to the interpretation of some, this text isn’t an absolute promise that whenever children are raised right, if they wander, they will always return. It’s unfortunate, but the Bible, as well as experience, demonstrates that good parenting doesn’t always result in good children. Children are not like machines that can be programmed, but instead they are moral agents who can choose either right or wrong.

But what the text does promise is that when godly values are passed along to children, this contribution to their lives never leaves them. It remains inside of them, and potentially becomes the right path. It’s an apron-string by which they may at any point draw themselves up, saving them from the treacherous terrain of life, even the loss of their own souls.

Nothing, absolutely nothing, can ever substitute for loving, godly parental leadership in the early development of children. And, as the poet William Ross Wallace so eloquently said it, “The hand that rocks the cradle is the hand that rules the world.”

**Marlene’s Meditations**

**Singing God’s Tune**

By Marlene Hunk

Buncombe County

Zephaniah 3:17 The Lord r y o: God is mighty. He is mighty. He will save, He will rejoice over Me with joy, He will exalt Me with joy, He will exalt Me with joy, He will exalt Me with joy.

Hop in your car, turn onto Interstate 40 East from somewhere in western North Carolina, and travel for about 22 hours. You will arrive at Tijeras, New Mexico. Exit onto Route 66 (southbound-important), and you will encounter the #1 Trip Advisor recommendation for this otherwise desolate and sparsely inhabited town.

Tijeras’ climate contrasts our lush mountains that ring with the melody of the divine in its rushing waterfalls. Another intriguing difference is a must-see attraction when traveling to that area. Between mile markers four and five on this stretch of historical Route 66 in New Mexico, there is a different kind of song than the cascading waterfalls of our state. It is called the Singing Road. And we Americans can easily identify the tune! Engineers designed this quarter-mile stretch by placing rumble strips at exact distances to match the vibrations of the notes in “America the Beautiful.” But the tune can only be heard when driving over the rumble strips at exactly 45 miles per hour!

Did you hear the practice requirements that a visitor must follow to hear the Singing Road?

- This singing road is in a certain location, and visitors must travel there to experience the delight of this unusual attraction.
- At an exact speed of 45 miles per hour produces results, no more, no less.
- One must produce the right action (drive over the rumble strips) to hear the song.
- The song can easily be recognized and is a specific tune.
- Some visitors drove over it several times before they heard it or repeated the action just for fun.

Just as we can enjoy the music of the Singing Road when we follow the guidelines, so in life, we must follow God’s cues to hear His magnificent song. Filled with lyrics composed just for us, the exquisite melodies refresh our souls.

- The Singing Road is in a certain location. Likewise, we need to follow as God leads us to the specific places of still waters and green pastures where He feeds us and gives us strength to follow Him.
- We need to travel at the right speed. If we rush through the day without praising Him, praying to Him, and fulfilling His will for our lives, we can’t hear the magnificent notes of His dazzling song like Martha, when Jesus told her she was “troubled about many things,” (Luke 10:41), we need to slow down to God’s speed. Rather than rush frantically into the busy-ness of the day, we should allow the strains of His love to cool our hearts.
- We need to choose the right actions (driving over the rumble strips). When we choose to act and allow our feelings to follow, we can be in tune with His song for us. Like David, when spurred by Nabor, we need to overcome our anger and focus on framing our rightful role as heirs to the kingdom. (1 Samuel 23:15).
- God has a specific song for each of our lives. Some contain more sorrowful, minor notes while others ring throughout the halls of Christendom with booming voices full of leadership and biblical truth. Still others flow joyfully through life, encouraging the bride of Christ and humbling us in our soils constantly.
- Philippians 3:14: “Be zealous in this very thing, that ye may perfect your peace.”

We can identify with little Samuel (1 Samuel chapter 17) when he nuestrock God’s very heart when he said: “... He is my God and I am His servant.” Or perhaps, we love the experience of driving over and over the rumble strips of God’s song before we can hear the tune. We tilt our hands, listening carefully, finally hearing the notes from His heart, and our spirits jump in the tune.

We can identify with little Samuel (1 Samuel chapter 17) when he ihrenock God’s very heart when he said: “... He is my God and I am His servant.” Or perhaps, we love the experience of driving over and over the rumble strips of God’s melody for us, thrilling to the rhythm.

When we listen for God’s singing, He gently croon His unique composition, a hallelujah intended for our wounded souls. And the tune becomes a top attraction for life’s journey.

Music washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life.—Burghard Auerbach

Do you hear the music of the holy in your life? It can wash away the debris of life and refresh and cleanse. Can you imagine singing along with the Lover of your soul’s song?

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For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children: Psalm 78:5-8
Unity

By Monica Henley-Kritz
Mitchell County

The National Day of Prayer was held on Thursday, May 3. The theme for 2018 was “Pray for America: Unity.” The verse chosen was Ephesians 4:1, “Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”

Prior to the National Day of Prayer, we scheduled 7 “days of repentance” at Riverside Park. Each day at 12 noon, we met and prayed for each major area of influence in our nation, which was divided into seven areas. This was church, business, education, the family, and the community. There was a time of special music and a speaker, before we closed in prayer each day. It was a special time, as well as an encouragement to see local people gather together, those who have a real concern for our nation.

On Thursday, the National Day of Prayer, my heart was thrilled to see approximately 100 people in attendance for the 12 noon meeting! Praise God! Our town of Spruce Pine mayor, Darla Hardy, led the national prayer from the National Day of Prayer task force, as we all read along with her, lifting our voices in unison to God. One of the goals of the National Day of Prayer task force was to have prayer gatherings in every county all across our nation, with people reading the national prayer aloud together. Can you imagine the sound of all of the voices rising up to God in unison? I pray that it wasn’t a “hoot” or a joke, but a prayer from the heart.

We were also blessed to have Tri-County Christian School in attendance with us. They sang 2 songs, which ministered to our hearts. One was “Love Ran Red” and the other song was a solo, “More Than Anything,” sung by Alexia Buchanan. These songs stirred and softened our hearts, as we were reminded of what God is and how great He is. This was a wonderful opportunity to come together as CHERSTians and worship THE LORD together, as well as seek His face in prayer.

In the 6:30 p.m. gathering, we prayed aloud together again, led by Mayor Darla Hardy. Charles Allen sang a solo, “The Wonders of Wooden,” which rang across the river with a beautiful melody and words in praise to Our LORD and SAVIOUR. Also, in attendance was Miss Katie Blair, a student from Bethel Christian Academy, who prayed The LORD’s prayer.

As the County Coordinator for the National Day of Prayer, I shared what God put on my heart. I had received an email from someone involved with the National Day of Prayer, and it included a link to an article entitled, “Come and See What God Has Done”, by Carol Madison, editor of Prayer Community. The following is from this article, which is one of the best I have ever read! Read it and let it settle into your heart and mind.

“Nestled in the mountains of Guatemala is a community of several thousand people called Almolonga—a place where residents claim God’s presence has brought transformation of society and a healing of the land (2 Corinthians 4:3-5). These are the government, military, and many of the businesses had biblical foundations that, in fact, a banner over the main street declared, “Jesus is Lord of Almolonga.”

“Pastor Myers, the streets were bustling with farmers carrying their produce. I was taken back by the abundance and enormous size of the crickets. It was a cloudy day and the sky was dark. The streets were clean with little dirt, the homes were better maintained than what I had expected. In fact, as I drove through town, I was impressed with the people of Almolonga. This community was once known for crime, alcoholism, poverty, abuse and hostility to pastors, churches, and missionaries. But when God’s people were most desperate, they cried out to Him in prayer. And now an estimated 80 to 90 percent of the people are followers of Jesus Christ. We sensed the accuracy of that just estimate as we interacted with them. We asked questions and invited them to give us an explanation for the obvious differences between their community and other villages nearby. The vast majority says all glory to God for the transformation of their families and town. Many of them spoke of physical healing. We met just one person over the course of 2 days who said she wasn’t a believer.”

Carol continues, “The townspeople sent us away with a message we heard over and over again - the need for humility and desperate prayer. ‘When you go home,’ one pastor said, ‘you must tell the people that it is not a program or strategy. Tell them that they must humble themselves and pray. There is no other way.’”

I came away convinced that God’s heart is for the transformation of communities. He raised a new level of prayer and hope for my own community. May this stir our hearts and cause us to seek God for our town and county, as well as our nation. We all know that we have problems here, just like anywhere else. But if we will follow God… seek Him, I believe He will take care of us and our economy, as well as our spiritual problems. God Himself said in 2 Chronicles 7:14, “If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.”

Please, in Mitchell County… please, Spruce Pine… please join in prayer for our county, for our state of North Carolina, and for our nation, the United States of America! Here is the recipe for success! Humbling ourselves and praying! Confessing and repenting!

Both gatherings were closed by our dear husband, Jason Kritz, pastor of Crabtree Chapel Baptist Church, who led in passionate and powerful prayer with confession and repentance to Our Great God.

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

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The Rest of the Story

Doug Harrell

This Funny Farm Story has a different twist than Clint’s normal, hilarious tales of nature. The attitude you see here is really more in touch with the genuine person Clint was in his walk with His Lord and the praise he gave Him on a daily basis.

Even in moments of laughter, he never lost that love for his Creator and was consistently giving thanks for the same things in life. His testimony will always live on in the lives of those he touched in the most magical ways. Go rest high on that mountaintop my dear Brother in Christ.

Dear friends,

I’ve been writing this column for nearly 3 years— in fact, this is my 36th tale from what I call “The Funny Farm” at Harrell Hill. A few months back I seemed to have exhausted my inventory of stories from that fruitful summer of 2010... but recently I’ve been remembering things I had forgotten.

We recently moved to the Hiwassee River area near the Big City of Hendersonville, NC. I was forgetful concerning the life and plight of the farmer. Like most “city folk,” I took tomatoes grown in my local Ingles store!

Farmer Doug was bemoaning the lack of rain, for just a second, when he decided that we needed to find water to irrigate our garden. Being the city slicker that I am, I thought to myself, “FIND WATER! That’s the most ridiculous thing I’ve ever heard!” After all, the fields were literally cracking from the extreme heat and lack of rainfall. Nevertheless, who was I to challenge Doug’s ideas. So, as he mounted his GIANT earth moving Thingamabob, I fell in behind him and went in search of life-giving water.

When we arrived at the field Doug stopped alongside what appeared to have been a ditch/stream— perhaps back in prehistoric times. If you laid on your belly beside it, you could almost feel an icy-sizzly bit of moisture in the soil. Always the artist, Farmer Doug had referred to it as a “stream.” I’m thinking to myself, “This IS NOT A STREAM... it’s little more than a leak in the dirt!”

Farmer Doug sensed my disbelief, gave me that “Pellard you don’t know what you’re smiling” —smile, and patiently explained that we needed to create a reservoir pond to capture as much of the precious liquid as possible. “When pigs fly,” I quoted to myself. It reminded me of God’s words to Adam following the Fall— “And to Adam he said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you. You shall not eat of it.”’ (Genesis 2:17)... surely the reservoir could not fill up enough moisture to save our garden.

Journey to the Center of the Earth

My friend began dropping the giant front-end loader bucket/digger into the pond, the machines screaming and groaning in protest. He’d encounter a boulder that delayed progress and threatened to doom our lake building efforts... but Farmer Doug never gives up. Every time I would climb into the expanding cavern to shovel it out, doing my part in this DRAG HOLE! I recall feeling somewhat tentative about the effort... but surely there were evildoers — perhaps a rattle snake or two... maybe a killer groundhog... a morose spider— beneath the surface, irritated that we were disturbing their homestead.

By this time I had lost at least 50 pounds of Farmer Clint’s fit... having gone from a size 39” waist (at 305 lbs) to a size 41” and 250 lbs. Although I was losing more fit and trim than ever, the heat of the day nearly sent me to heaven... shoveling down the dirt and water— another rock fighting against my shovel— oooh, ahh, oooohhh, ahhhh (that’s the sound of a man working on the chain gang !)

I was pretty sure that I was only minutes possibly seconds away from meeting Jesus when I noticed a tiny white spot on the wall of the canyon... surely I was hallucinating— this must be a mirage.

Now more... a little more... more now... VOILA, a trickle began flowing from the center of the earth! Farmer Doug grumbled... I stood in that hole, my mouth gaping, as water covered the base of my Farmer Clint boots... I watched in wonder as the underground reservoir began filling, ever so slowly but surely!

And so the story goes.

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Clint’s Chronicles on the Funny Farm

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Our Need for Peace and Confession
By Rev. John McCoury
Roan Mountain, Tennessee

"If your offering is a peace offering, and you offer an animal from the herd, whether male or female, you are to present before the Lord an animal without defect." Lev 3:1

Now we come to the peace offering. In the peace offering we are recognizing another basic, fundamental need of the human heart. No proper life is possible without peace. I am not referring here to the peace of forgiveness. That will come in the next two offerings: the sin and the trespass offerings. It is not peace with God; it is the peace of God we are talking about here. It is peace, not in the sense of hostility ceased, but in the sense of emotional stability, of an untroubled heart. That is what we need—a sense of security, of well-being, of confidence that things are under control and that it is all going to work out. That is the kind of peace this offering represents. Perhaps you remember the story of the artists who were commissioned to paint a picture of peace. One artist depicted peace as an absolutely calm and tranquil sea lying under the moonlight without a ripple on the water. But the one who won the prize painted a turbulent mountain waterfall, with its noisily plunging waters. But half-hidden behind the waterfall, is the midst of all the thunder and tumult, was a bird's nest with a mother bird sitting quietly and severally on her eggs. That was peace. That is what this offering is all about—peace in the midst of trouble, in the midst of conflict. This kind of peace is perhaps best known and visible by its absence. We know when we are not at peace. We all have had the sense of tension and pressure, that knot at the back of the head, those butterflies in the stomach which won't leave you. There's a restlessness so intense you feel that you can't sit down, that you have got to do something, anything, to overcome the inability to get your mind off the subject that is troubling you. No matter what you do, it is there, throbbing away, and it keeps coming back again and again. You have a troubled heart, and that is the absence of peace. We all are familiar with the physical difficulties which can come with such an absence of peace. It is an excellent way to build a good case of ulcers. It can create all kinds of disturbances in the body—tics, nervous twitches, indigestion, stuttering, and various other maladies. Even emotional breakdown and nervous collapse can follow. So, it is very evident that we are dealing here with a fundamental need. If you do not think the Bible is practical you have not even begun to understand this book. It deals with human life as it really is. Thank you, Father, for these eloquent truths taught through these Old Testament sacrifices. Give me an open and responsive heart so that I will recognize that in the dying of the Lord Jesus, and in His rising again, I have all that it takes to bring me through my troubles and bring me peace. Application in life is our peace safely dependent upon outward circumstances? Have we discovered the secret of inner tranquility as we increasingly trust in our Father's wise, loving and sovereign control of it all?

Then the priest is to take some of the blood with his finger and put it on the horns of the altar of burnt offering and pour out the rest of the blood at the base of the altar. Lev 4:30 In the book of Leviticus, the five great offerings specified there set forth for us so clearly and helpfully the basic needs of our humanity, needs which God has built into every one of us, and how these needs can be met—the only way in which they can be met. Here we come to the fourth of these offerings, the sin offering. Remember that in the previous offerings, just as in the sin offering, blood had to be shed, and a death had to occur. But all the blood of the animal was poured out at the foot of the altar. But with the blood of the sin offering something unusual was always done. The blood had to be sprinkled seven times before the LORD. Then, in the case of the offering for the anointed priest as we see here, it had to be put on the horns of the altar of incense which stood in the holy place, right in front of the veil which guarded the Holy of Holies, right before the presence of the LORD. What is the significance of this? It is obvious that a special emphasis is being placed upon the blood. It is to be put in a visible place, and in a place, which is obviously connected with God. It is to be recognized openly as being on the horns of the altar before the LORD. And the individual for whom the offering is being made is to be able to see the blood there. That is the point. In other words, there is to be an understanding on the part of the one who sinned that this blood has now covered his sin, forgiven it, and before God it is acknowledged to be forgiven. And when he understands that, then his own conscience can be at rest. I find many people who have never seen that God accepts the death of Jesus fully on their behalf. They are always struggling with some sincere degree of sin they have committed, and which they think is not able to forgive. They do not see the blood on the horns of the altar. As a result, they torment themselves endlessly with guilt. But God is trying to make very clear that there is a way to be free of guilt. And once the blood is there on the altar, it provides a way out. There is no guilt left: He shall be forgiven, the Scripture says—not only of the sinful act but of the guilt of his very nature. That is what this offering is teaching. It teaches us that this is the only way that man ever has of being free from his hangup, hidden, inward sense of guilt which alienates him from God. Men are always trying to find their own ways to be free of guilt. Some try to forget it. Most are trying simply to avoid the whole subject. They don't want to think of guilt at all. But you remember how David said he felt when he tried that. These are his words from Psalm 32: "When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy on me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer." (Psalm 32:3-4) This is what unacknowledged guilt will do. It will dry up your life, will reduce it to a shallow, superficial level of living in which you have to be caught up endlessly in some diversion in order not to think about your relationship with God. And forgetting will not make it better. Help me to be honest, Lord, about my guilt, and not to try to avoid it but to know that there is no way out unless I acknowledge it. Thank you that there is a way out of my guilt, and that I no longer need to be far off from you. Remember honest confession and open repentance is never risk-taking with God, but rather the open door to forgiveness of all our sin. Do we seek this invaluable gift often and with joyful expectancy?

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

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**Bear Creek Baptist Church**

By Bruce Cannon
Mitchell County

For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries. (1 Corinthians 16:9)

The Apostle Paul understood the need to spread the Word of God, but the opportunities to spread the Word were not always easy. He faced many obstacles, and we, as believers, understand the world mindset and the forces of evil attempting to combat the advancement of the Gospel in every way possible.

Decades ago the opposition was nowhere near as powerful and prevalent as today. My mind goes back to grade school in the early 1960s when we would study every Sunday school class with prayer, the pledge of allegiance and readings from the Scriptures. During that same time frame, it was not uncommon for national and state leaders to call the nation to prayer. The House of God and the people of God were respected. God’s Word was sought out when important decisions needed to be made. Prayer was always prayed “in Jesus’ Name” at sporting events and other public assemblies of people.

Things have changed today! Christianity is the only remaining religion in the United States which is not growing, but rather is in a state of steady decline. Statistics from denominational headquarters bear this out. Look at the houses of worship around us. Contrary, Islam is growing in the United States as other cultic beliefs. Why? They have no opposition from the forces of evil. Satan would love to have false teachings advanced because they have no power to oppose him. Only the Word of God is able to hold the forces of evil in check.

The need to spread the Gospel, the need to teach the principles of Scripture to our families, the need to sermons pray and the need to stand for Christ has never been greater.

As I write this article we are drawing close to remembering those who died in battle for our Country. As you read this article we will most likely have just observed Memorial Day. How I thank God for those who fought for our Country and died. Their fight was for our freedom ... freedom which has been either taken away or given away.

It breaks my heart to think about the many heroes who fought, bled and died for our Country. But what really breaks my heart is to think about the number of men who did so without even knowing Christ as their personal Savior. That makes the price of our freedom beyond comprehension.

In just over a month we will be celebrating the 4th of July. Again my mind will go back to those same thoughts and I will wish we were “one nation under God,” and that “God” would only be defined as the Lord God, not a god of one’s choosing. How I will wish we were that nation of days gone by where freedom to pray in Jesus’ name in public places was honored and our nation would honor those old Judeo-Christian values which shaped our nation and made it great.

As Irvin Berlin wrote, “God Bless America, Land that I love, Stand beside her And guide her through the night with the light from above.”

Please, Lord, hear our prayer and grant us a close walk with You. Please bless our nation again. Make its streets safe. Protect its citizens. Revive its Churches. Give us another chance to please You! In Jesus’ Name! Amen!

**Lana’s Lines**

By Lana Ellis
Kingsport, Tennessee

The Human Body is a complex combination of intricate parts, each designed for a particular purpose, working in harmony with one another in order to complete the whole. From the smallest cell to the largest organ, from the tiny capillary to the systerm, from the brain to the sole of the foot. To function perfectly each body part has a role to perform and when one part is not functioning as designed the whole body is affected by it.

The same can be said about the Body Parts of the Church. Just as the human body has many parts, each with different functions, so do we who are born again believers. We are part members of the body of Christ, the Church. In order to function the human body needs a head which is the brain. Psychology Wiki website puts it this way: “The Human Brain is the center of the central nervous system in humans. It controls "lower" or involuntary activities such as heartbeat, respiration and digestion. The brain also controls "higher" order, conscious activities, such as thought, reasoning and abstraction.”

Just like the human body the church requires a “Head” to function at its best. First and foremost the Head of the Church is Christ, as opposed to a human being! According to Ephesians 1:22-23 God made Jesus head over all things to the church which is His body. We human beings equipped with spiritual gifts, make up the remainder of the body of Christ with each part having an essential function. Paul’s letters to the Corinthians and Ephesians he says these gifts were given for the common good of the body, to equip and build up the body of Christ. Paul pinches a picture for us in 1st Corinthians 12 comparing the parts of the human body to the church’s parts emphasizing that one body part is no more or less important. If the spiritual gifts are not being activated properly the church will become crippled and its growth stunted.

Could the seat of a church’s problem be the body part on which we sit? Let’s get down to the bottom of it. There are church members who Sunday after Sunday attend the service but are not part of the church community. No, not that we have to be in a body that believes in Jesus. But the ones who come to the body on Sunday but do not want to participate in the life of the church. This is a serious problem in my opinion. I have seen it before and I want to see it again. When I was a child, I was taught that a church was not just a building, but a community. We were taught to be part of the church, to participate in the life of the church. The church is not just a place to go to church on Sunday, but a community that we belong to and participate in. This is true for all churches, not just the church in which I was raised.

Next Sunday when we enter our places of worship and sit on the body “sitting part” let’s have eyes that see and ears that hear. Upon the benediction let’s exit with a renewed spirit to put into action the spiritual gifts that God has given us, for the benefit of the body. This is the way it is. It is my prayer that we will equip ourselves with spiritual gifts to fulfill God’s will, working in us what is pleasing to God in His sight. (Romans 12:6)
Graduation
By Teresa Young
Mitchell County

Tri-County Christian School of Spruce Pine completed our 33rd school year May 23, 2018. Following the morning Kindergarten Graduation and Awards Day, Senior Graduation was held that evening at 7 pm. TCSC 2018 Graduates include Julissa Cree (graduating with Honors) Noah Shope (graduating with Highest Honors) and Matthew Singleton. Each of these students has participated in the Career & College Program at Mayland Community College during their Jr/Senior years, earning credits toward an early start of a college education. We are proud of our students’ academic success, but even more, the depth of Christian character, which is of greatest value throughout life and eternity.

Teresa Young is the Principal A Tri-County Christian School in Spruce Pine.
“Release the Arrow”
By Pastor Dean Honeycutt
Mitchell County

I hope you have a wonderful summer. Hot dogs, swimming pools, and vacation; it’s all good and things we look forward to because we get to take a little time off and spend it with the family. Usually write articles about the family because I have a strong bond for the family members. I write from most of my own experiences from the family I grew up in and the family from a young age I have known.

Most people our age have already seen their children move away from home and are in the “empty nest”. But, we have a large family by today’s standards; the average American household is about four people (U.S. Census Bureau 3.14). We have seven. We have already had three high school graduates and two college graduates; you have two more to go. I will be fifty-six when our youngest graduates from high school “Lord willing”. The Lord has really blessed us with wonderful children, and your children are wonderful too.

Training and disciplining our children is a lot like releasing an arrow. You aim the arrow at the bull’s eye and hope it strikes the center based on the preparation you made before the shooting and the skill you have developed. The Bible says children are a blessing from God and compares them to a man who has a quiver full of arrows. Psalm 127:5-6 (KJV 1900)

3 Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD.
And the fruit of the womb is his reward.

4 As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man;
So are children in the hand of a valiant man.

5 Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them:
I like to think of our children as arrows, and we will not release them until they are ready to hit the bull’s eye. The bull’s eye or center mark is a vibrant personal and growing relationship with Jesus Christ. The area around the bull’s eye may represent marriage, college, job, or even success, but those areas are not the bull’s eye and to hit any area else on the target is to miss the main mark which is a relationship with Jesus. We are not called to be “fans” of Christ but “followers”.

The Bible teaches us that we “have all sinned and come short”; we all have missed the mark. God’s only begotten Son died a horrible, painful death on a Roman cross. Jesus was our substitute; He took our place and paid for our sin with His inless life and blood. And God is satisfied, and Jesus’ death is propitiation for our sin against God. So, our job as parents is to lead our children to Christ, train and discipline them to fear the Lord. This is the bull’s eye, nothing else matters. To fail at a job, get a bad grade on a test, experience a heartbreak, is minor compared to standing before God one day and giving an account of a life lived for Him.

You are going to release an arrow one day, make sure you release it well. Prepare now for that time. What is important to you will be important to your children. They will be as close to God as you are. (Think about that.) The arrow has been in good hands and is ready to hit the mark. When it takes flight, it cannot be retrieved.

God bless you and have a great summer.

Pastor Dean Honeycutt
Snow Hill Baptist Church in Burnsville, NC. He may be reached at 828-315-0213. snowhillbaptist@gmail.com or visit their website at www.snowhillbaptist.com.

Relay Of The Blue Ridge
By Don Ford
Mitchell County

The time is here! Relay of the Blue Ridge is having a celebration at Mitchell High School in Ledgemont, NC on Friday, June 22nd at 6 PM and you are invited. This is the annual event sponsored by local teams and volunteers to fundraise, as well as empower volunteers and care providers to take a stand in finding a cure for cancer.

Relay of the Blue Ridge encompasses Avery, Mitchell, and Yancey counties. Residents of all three counties are encouraged to participate in the main event at MHS. Music and entertainment will be provided by The Laws Family, David Brews, Jider, and the Mates, Dave Hughes and Elvis and Daley impersonators. Other activities include a frozen t-shirt contest games, corn hole, inflatables, and dancing, too.

Blue Ridge Regional Hospital staff will be selling Chick-Fil-A sandwiches and tickets for several prizes. Cloudland Baptist Church will also be selling barbeque at the event. There will be homemade fried apple pies and coconut pies too. You can also purchase items from “Mrs. Jackie Thomas’ “It’s Memory, In Honor or In Remembrance for those affected by cancer. A luminary ceremony will be held at dusk.

So, bring a lawn chair, some comfortable shoes and enjoy the fun and festivities. For more information, please contact Rhonda Buchanan at (828) 766-1639.

Don Ford has served the Lord as a minister for 40 years. He and his wife Deborah have one daughter who lives in Georgia.
New Executive Director
By Dan Barron
Mitchell and Yancey Counties

The Toe River Arts Council has appointed Nealy Andrews as Executive Director, a position that Denise Cook exemplarily has held for 30 years. Nealy is from Hickory, North Carolina with a degree in Arts Education from Appalachian State University at which she is completing a MFA with a concentration in nonprofit management. She has held administrative positions at Aquarelle in Raleigh. The Turpin Center for the Visual Arts at ASU and Mayland Community College. Nealy says, “Stepping into this new role with TRAC feels like the perfect marriage of my love for the arts and my passion for growing and enhancing the community that has come to mean so much to me.” “We had a significant number of well-qualified potential candidates for the position,” said Chair of the TRAC Board, Dr. Dan Barron. “However, Nealy was the unanimous choice of the Search Committee, the Board and the TRAC Staff. We are looking forward to working with her to continue building on the strong foundation established by Denise Cook.”

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

Governor’s Volunteer Service Award Winner
By Elaine Percival
Mitchell County

Mitchell County resident, Dr. Marvin Walker, has become the recipient of the 2018 Governor’s Volunteer Service Award. Dr. Walker gave many hours to volunteer service projects such as Coordinator for Mitchell-Yancey Rise Against Hunger, Habitat for Humanity, numerous International and local disaster relief assistance projects, Spruce Pine Rotary local support projects, and many more.

The recognition is part of the N.C. Governor’s Award for Volunteer Service program, which honors individuals, groups, teams and businesses that make significant contributions to their communities through volunteer service. Since the program began in 1978, more than 16,000 individuals have been recognized for their service. County coordinators and local selection committees receive and evaluate the nominations. Mitchell County’s local coordinator is Jeff Vaise of Mitchell County Cooperative Extension. Dr. Walker was honored with the presentation by his fellow Rotarian at the Spruce Pine Rotary Club meeting held May 3rd at “Service Above Self” is the Rotary motto. Dr. Walker was nominated for the award by fellow Rotarian, Alex Gomez. MAY Coalition is a nonprofit corporation whose mission is “to help create high quality employment opportunities for unemployed and underemployed residents of Mitchell, Avery and Yancey Counties.” It started with a $1 million grant from the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation in 1992. As a non-profit community development loan fund, the corporation uses funds to make small loans to entrepreneurs and too low to moderate income business owners. The Coalition participates in the U.S. Department of Agriculture which allows MAY to make larger loans to qualified businesses for job creation and preservation. Mr. Thiele stressed that MAY is a local program. The board is local, the office is local, the loans are local, and when the money is repaid, it stays in this local area.

Elaine Percival lives in Little Switzerland and is a member of the Rotary in Spruce Pine.

Happy Father’s Day
To My Dad, My Father, My Hero!

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Never Enough
By Pastor Steve Williams
Mitchell County

The Bible tells us in Luke 12:15-23 that Jesus said: 15...
"Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth. 23 The life is more than meat, and the body is more than raiment.

We live in a society where people seem to never have enough. They can never seem to be happy or satisfied with what they have. In their mind they are thinking just a little more and I'll have what I want, and I'll be happy. Well I have to tell you that kind of thinking, has been affecting people since the beginning of time and it is still showing it's ugly head in the day that we are living. As you look at people today they seem to be more infatuated with things. Now understand I'm not saying it's wrong to have things, but what's wrong in today's society is the things people have, have a great hold on them. You see so many people putting the things God has blessed them with in front of God, and when this happens, we see people missing out on the great blessing of God.

In Luke 13 Jesus told a parable about a rich man experiencing his best days. Everything was accumulated so much wealth he didn't have enough storage space. The rich man's solution was to tear down his barns and build bigger ones that would hold more possessions. And then he would retire and make life one big party. This man thought accumulated wealth promised a great, full life. His only problem was that he wasn't prepared for his coming death that very night. Jesus' story teaches us that we can live life for the Present or for the Future, for the Visible or the Invisible, for the short day or for the long tomorrow for Time or Eternity. Life is too short to live for what is passing. We should live for what is lasting! Jesus' point was that we should invest our lives in what lasts. The rich fool lived for this are, not eternity. His possessions owned him, and he trusted them to bring him what only God could bring.

I read an article the other day that said that there are more than thirty thousand self-storage facilities in America providing over a billion square feet for our stuff. In the 1960's the industry did not even exist. Now today Americans pay 12 billion dollars a year to store their excess. Yet people aren't happier. They are stressed and working longer hours to get where the rich fool was, having perceived happiness from accumulated wealth. However, Jesus message is different than that of our culture. Jesus says in Matt 6:19-21 “19 Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal. 20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: 21 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” I believe Jesus is telling us to enjoy eternity, and you will enjoy a life of joy and value.

Words of Wisdom
A little thought and a little kindness are often worth more than a great deal of money. John Rankin
A rich man is nothing but a poor man with money. W. C. Fields
Don't let making a living pervert you from making a life! N/A
Money cannot buy peace of mind. It cannot heal ruptured relationships, or build a meaning into a life that has none. N/A
Money has never made man happy, nor will it, there is nothing in its nature to produce happiness. The more of it one has the more one wants. Benjamin Franklin

Never Satisfied
Two friends met in the street. One looked sad and almost on the verge of tears. The other man said, "Hey my friend, how come you look like the whole world has caved in?" The sad fellow said, "Let me tell you. Three weeks ago, an uncle died and left me 50-thousand dollars." "That's not bad at all...!" "Hold on, I'm just getting started. Two weeks ago, a cousin I never knew kicked-the-bucket and left me 95-thousand, tax-free to boot." "Well, that's great! I'd like that." "Last week, my grandfather passed away. I inherited almost a million." "So why are we glum?" "This week - nothing!" I thought this was funny, but you know it almost sounds true in the day we live. That's Sad

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

Happy Father's Day
5 Financial Priorities for Your College Student
By Anthony ONeal

If you’re the parent of a child already attending or about to enter college, you probably have a lot on your mind. That’s understandable. College is an exciting time of life, full of big choices and exciting opportunities. But let’s face it, it’s also a stage of life that can bring temptations — money troubles in particular.

If you have a few concerns about how your child will handle their money in college, you’re not alone. I’ll never forget my own early financial experiences as a young college student—or the day I opened my first credit card bill and saw what I owed.

“Man, that was an expensive pizza!”
The folks who signed me up told me my credit card came with a free T-shirt and a pizza. I bought both of those, but they were far from free. They came with consequences no one had warned me about. It started with a few thoughtless purchases—a dinner out, a shopping spree for gifts—but it added up quick.

Somewhere, I hadn’t realized the stuff I was buying and enjoying on credit was going to come due at a bill. Throw in the student loans I had taken on and, I was getting into some serious financial trouble. Before I knew what was happening, I was 19 years old, $25,000 in debt, and — for a short time — even sleeping in my car.

But here’s some encouragement. I made it all the way back, got out of debt, and learned the right way to handle money. And your child can win with money, despite a world of pressure to do otherwise. It’s true! As a youth pastor and speaker, I’ve seen, worked with, and walked beside many young people who graduated college as strong budgeters, with a clear plan for the future and no debt. So, can the college student in your life?

The Big Five

While your child is in college, they can lay a solid financial foundation by focusing on just five priorities for managing their money. With this foundation in place, at least two great things will happen for them: They will be in a strong position to build wealth throughout their life, and they will gain an awesome amount of self-discipline to help them in their careers.

1. Save a $500 Emergency Fund. It might not sound like a lot, but $500 is usually enough to see a college student through most of the financial emergencies that come up, like a broken phone or computer. I know you’re going to want to help them out as you’re able, but it’s also a great idea to let a young person feel what it’s like to solve a money problem with their own money instead of using yours or a credit card.

2. Get Out of Debt. You probably remember from your own time on campus that college students are a major target for credit card companies. Help your child understand that going into debt is no way to start adulthood. If they already have credit card drains, encourage them to cut those up and pay them off. The sooner they’re debt-free, the sooner they can begin using their money to go after their dreams.

3. Pay Cash for a Car. Most college students will need a car either right away or soon after graduating. But the need for wheels is no excuse to take on a big monthly payment. Paying cash will save your child a lot of money, and they will get a lot more enjoyment from something they actually own.

4. Pay Cash for College. You’ve probably noticed student loans are getting out of hand in America. In 2016, The Wall Street Journal reported that the average college student is graduating with more than $37,000 in student loan debt to pay back. That’s insane! Let your child know that paying for tuition and books is no different than paying for food and gas. By paying for college with cash they’ll immediately be able to use their pay for things they want, instead of paying off debt for years.

5. Build Wealth and Give. This one is my favorite, because there’s no better feeling than the one you get while using your money to help those you care about. As Jesus himself said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” And who has the most freedom to do a lot of good with their money? Those who have been fortunate enough to stay out of debt and build wealth.

One more tip: It’s easy to assume you can only build this foundation if you begin early enough in life. Believe me, that’s not true. It’s never too early to start, but it’s also never too late. Whether your child is just beginning to think about college, or is already enrolled, they can apply these principles to take full control of their money — in school and beyond.

Since 2003, Anthony ONeal has helped thousands of students make good decisions with their money, relationships and education to live a well-balanced life. He’s the National Best-Selling Author of Graduate Survival Guide: 5 Mistakes You Can’t Afford to Make in College, and travels the country spreading his encouraging message to help young and young adults transition into the real world. His latest book and video kit, Teen Entrepreneur Toolbox, released in April 2018. You can follow Anthony on Twitter and Instagram @AnthonyONeal and online at anthonyonael.com or facebook.com/OneAl.
Jr. Robotics Has Busy Schedule
By Kim Slomick
Mitchell County

Gouge Elementary School’s 4-H Jr. Robotics teams found themselves in high demand as they recently presented their accomplishments to the County Commissioner, the School Board, Gouge School’s student body, and their parents. The teams annual trip to present at a first Lego League Jr. Expo at UNCA Asheville on March 24th was canceled due to snowy weather. The teams were able to make up for this missed opportunity by presenting their hard work to a number of different audiences which helped them work on their presentation skills and gave them a chance to show off their knowledge and technical skills.

This year the teams participated in a worldwide challenge called Aqua Adventures. This is a first Lego League challenge that encourages young people ages 6-10 to research where their water comes from, how it gets to them, and what happens after it reaches their faucets. Each team makes a model from Lego parts that displays something they have learned from their research. The model must contain a moving/motorized part that incorporates engineering and technical skills. Teams also make a poster that tells about the team, their model, and the research. The teams got to meet several members of our community that deal with water. Mayor Charles Vines came and spoke to the teams about the unique water system in the town of Blacksville. Dennis Johnson, Environmental Supervisor at Unimin Corporation spoke to them about treating water at Unimin. John Silver, Mitchell County Environmental Health Specialist spoke to the teams about the different sources of water in the county and how they are treated.

The 3 Jr. Robotics teams were: the Amazing Aquaneers, the H20 Bros, and the Water Warriors. The Amazing Aquaneers’ six members were: Avrilia Burdison (2nd grade), Jainah Byrd (3rd), Kyleigh Garrett (2nd), Hannah Johnson (2nd), Samuel Jones (4th), and Olivia Thacker (2nd). The H20 Bro’s five members were: Logan English (2nd), Dallon Jones (2nd), Lunden Kinney (4th), Sawyer McCann (2nd), and Carter Sturgell (4th). The Water Warrior’s six members were: Ethan Peterson (3rd), Hidson Buchanan (2nd), James Cable (4th), Layla Kinney (2nd), Layla Shattuck (2nd), and Owen Young (2nd). The teams’ coaches were Mrs. Renee Johnson, 2nd grade teacher, and Julie Thacker, 4th grade teacher at Gouge Elementary School. The team mentor was Kim Slomick, 4-H Program Assistant with Mitchell County 4-H. The school’s 4-H Jr. Robotics program is in its 4th year of a successful partnership with Mitchell County 4-H.

Kim Slomick is 4-H Program Assistant for the NC Cooperative Extension-Mitchell County Center. You may contact her at kim_slomick@ncsu.edu.
Christian Action League

Reflections on Memorial Day:
The Chasm in the Middle of the Forum
By Rev. Mark Creech

The Forum in Rome was central to its civic life. It was surrounded by temples, legislative chambers, the marketplace, and other public accommodations.

There is a legend that Rome was once shaken by a mighty earthquake that caused a remarkable chasm in the middle of the Forum. The chasm was so deep you could see the bottom. Citizens brought manmade stones and mud from all of the earth to fill it up. Still, no one knew how much was thrown in, the chasm was only worn down before the Seuse concealed the oracles of the day, who concealed the void could never be filled until what was most valuable in Rome was cast into it.

"Heed this," said the augurs. "Your most sacred treasure must be dedicated to the gods if the city is to stand firm.

And so, the people, terror-stricken and agape, rushed to the edge of the great pit and started throwing in their most prized possessions - jewels, silver, gold - but to no avail. The cavity was deeper than ever.

Perplexed andAnonymous over what step to take next, a noble youth named Marcus Curtius rode forward, armed for battle.

"What is more valuable to Rome," he cried, "than courage."

"What is more valuable than a citizen willing to give himself for his country?"

All the people stood silent with their eyes fixed on Curtius.

As Curtius entered gallantly surveyed the Forum and its surrounding landscape, he searched for the spot most valuable. When he saw it, he started off with his sword raised in his hand, he spurred his horse and leaped into the chasm.

At that moment the ground closed behind him and neither he nor his horse were ever seen again. Everything returned to normal, just as matters were before the earthquake.

War is the mighty chasm in the Forum of nearly every generation. When a nation and its justified interests are threatened by invaders, when its people are killed, when its property is destroyed, there is no choice but to resist - by any means and at any cost. There are some matters more important than life itself. To live under a tyrant's boot can be a form of living death.

One of America's best theologians was the late Dr. Torrance Boeumer. Many years ago, Boeumer shared with me that much of America was under the spell of pacifism before World War II. In 1940 he felt the need to speak truth to this idea in a book he authored, The Christian Attitude Toward War. It raised his book's strategy in helping prepare the country's leadership for the world conflict ahead.

In his book, Boeumer argued, "Some time we hear it said that all war is wrong - wrong for the enemies as well as for the aggressors - and that even when waged with the sincerest purpose of reducing evil, it tends to produce greater evil than those against which it is directed. We are under no illusions that it is a dreadful thing to be engaged in moral combat with another human being or with another army. But under circumstances that sometimes occur, not only is such combat sanctioned by God, but it is our duty to perform it as a valuable resource. Countenance may arise in which it becomes our Christian duty to fight or wage war... it is nothing less than criminal to fail to provide our nation with an adequate defense."

Through the decades, more than 500,000 American soldiers, sailors, and aviators have given their lives. President Abraham Lincoln referred to the Civil War as "that least full measure of devotion."

It ends of them was noble, most of them young, while all of them like Marcus Curtius, leapt into war's hellish hole. Because of their sacrifice, the ground closed behind them. Because of them, life returned to the ways things were before - our freedom, our property, and our prosperity preserved.

What could be more valuable to any people? Jesus said, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friend." (John 15:13)

Memorial Day is about barbecues, picnics, parades, political speeches or a day off from work. Instead, it's observed lest we forget. When an attorney thinks we could ease forget. Yet we can and do.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt admonished, "Those who have long enjoyed such privileges as we enjoy forget in time that men have died to win them."

"Someone once said, "We do not cry because he wind moves it. It was with the last breath of a noble soldier who died protecting it."

On Memorial Day we honor our war dead.

There is another hero, however, whose memory is not easily forgotten. Those reflections, but the very source of our own liberty. It is imperative to remember this righteous warrior. His name is Jesus Christ.

Christian groups fear that great conflict between good and evil like none before or after Him. By way of the Cross, the blood, the forgiveness of sins, and the sword of His mouth, the way to salvation, the path of eternal punishment, closed behind him. But unlike the Roman legend of Marcus Curtius, Christ actually resurrected - reappeared alive again - and now holds within His hands the keys of death and salvation.

One day Christ will return to earth. The Bible says in that hour "He shall judge among the nations, and shallrebuke many people, and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks: nation shall not set up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more." (Isaiah 2:4).

In that day, He shall judge His Forum, shall be without end.

If we forget Jesus, if we neglect to repeat our sins and place our faith in Him and His atoning work, if we fail to surrender to His lordship now, then we shall surely be lost in the abyss forever.

Byron D. Mark Creech is Executive Director of the NC Christian Action League. You can contact him at mrmarkcreech@christianactionleague.org or 910-787-5685.
“Time to Smell the Roses”
By Jacob Willis
Yancey County

Matthew 14:21-22 says, “Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night he was there alone.” My grandmother gave good advice. She would say, “Life is short, take time to smell the roses.” As a small child watching life away I really didn’t understand what she meant. As you grow older you realize a need for introspection and self-renewal. It is this kind of refreshing we find Jesus taking for Himself throughout the gospels.

No one can fully imagine the load of responsibility that Jesus walked around with. Everywhere He went He was pursued by countless poor, needy, crippled, and hopeless people. He gave so much of Himself to others and was drained of His own energy. Jesus saw the need to get away, to stop and smell the roses. As we approach summer time many will take a “holiday”. It is important that we as believers take spiritual holidays just like Jesus did. Jesus was God incarnate. If He needed to rest and rejuvenate then how much more do we need times of refreshing with God?

Prayer was the center piece of this rest. Jesus went to spend time with the heavenly Father. He needed time to meditate, rest mentally and physically, and re-center Himself on His primary mission. It is possible for us to get so busy doing things for Jesus that we forget about Jesus. It is possible to be about healing others, and forget that we need healing ourselves. It is important to remember that our purpose in life is to glorify God and enjoy him. When time alone for God is our priority, then the rest of life falls into place. We begin to say no to people and yes to God, then we are free to operate in his power, and not our own.

Taking time to smell the roses prevents us from burning out due to the demands of this life. It is so important for people in ministry to commit to self-care and prayer. Taking care of you and calling a time out when you need to energize will make you a more effective minister.

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

“Faces you know.”

We cannot change the outcome, but we can affect the journey.

~ Anne Richardson

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Allen’s Offerings

Our World
By Allen Buchanan
Mitchell County

When thinking of what my article should be, I start looking for hints, an idea to expand on. My first thing is going to God in prayer. I write for Him. I want Him to use me as a vessel to inspire you, the reader. It’s my prayer that you are encouraged and strengthened to know God loves you, God then provides the hints.

This time, the moment I am thinking of Daniel 3 and the next Philippians 4.

Then out of the blue, our pastor is on vacation and Rev. Dale Buchanan brings the message for the day. Amazingly, he preaches from passages that I’m thinking on. His words followed along with what I had on my mind.

Our world today is running rampant. It seems like with each day, we are quickly drawing closer to the day of Jesus’ return. With that, the devil is throwing all he can at us. Temptation meets us head-on in every direction. The Christian life is a daily fight to stay on the Lord’s side. We must! In the end, we will win! Paul penned Philippians 4:8 to encourage us.

Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. Philippians 4:8

Dale talked about television in his personal and family life. I too struggle with what to watch. The world will have you believe that since you deal with sin through your day by listening and meeting those around you, you should not have any problem watching any and everything on TV. I disagree.

I recall a time when TV was clean and fun. No cussing. Crimes against nature were never mentioned. Most of us didn’t have a clue certain terms even existed. My definition of gay referred to happy, feeling good. Who would ever have thought what gay means today? Since the beginning of 2018, a few new shows have slipped Jesus Christ in as a swear phrase. My heart shivers and I turn the channel. Only to find a homosexual couple. Our news programs have embraced all lifestyles that go against God’s teachings.

Have we become a numb society? Doesn’t anything shock us? Garbage in, garbage out. Is what we are in slowly hardening our hearts, pulling us farther from Jesus? “Sin is sin” has always been a saying, but I feel it is rising higher and stronger as the end of time draws closer. Sin is on fire. It has the potential of burning our relationship between us and Jesus. The devil wants each one of us to be tossed into the fire with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. To let down our guard and live life as anything goes. How many of us are willing to admit we’ve allowed a Nechochadzea to tell us what to do?

I’m Not Going to Bow!

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

Bedrock Truths for Difficult Times
By Pastor Dan Quarolo
Burke County

At times, we face some extremely difficult and unexplainable circumstances in life. As believers, we know that God is at work in our lives; yet, if we were to be completely honest, we would all admit it is extremely difficult to understand what God is doing. At times, His work even seems unfair. How do we get through these difficult times?

What do we cling to when it seems as though our world is falling apart? When everything is stripped away, we will find that we come to some very basic, bedrock truths of the Christian life. In order to respond properly to the difficulties of life, we must keep these bedrock truths always in the forefront of our mind so that we might recall them frequently.

1. God’s way is always perfect. At times, we all struggle with what God is doing. His way often does not seem to make sense. It made no sense to build an ark when the earth had never seen rain; yet Noah remained confident in God’s way. It was David who confidently stated, “As for God, his way is perfect” (Psalm 18:30). Although it may not make sense to us now, we must remain confident that God’s way is always perfect; there are no exceptions.

2. God’s timing is always best. God has never been late, nor has He ever been early. His timing has always been perfect. Paul described the birth of the Messiah as taking place “when the fulness of the time was come...” (Galatians 4:4). In other words, Christ’s birth was at the perfect time decreed by God the Father before the foundations of the world were ever created.

3. God’s nature is always good. Once again, David stated adamantly, “Thy God is good to Israel, even to such as are of a clean heart” (Psalm 73:1) and then described the specific way in which God is experienced God’s good ness. A casual look over our lives will quickly attest to this reality: God’s nature is always good.

4. God’s work is always good. Because His nature is always good, everything He does is good because it stems from His very nature. Jesus asked, “If ye then, being evil, how know to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?” (Matthew 7:11). James wrote, “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning” (James 1:17). Because His work is a natural product of His nature, believers can confidently know that “all things work together for good...” (Romans 8:28).

5. God’s product will be completed. God is not content with unfinished products or partially completed projects. The work that God begins will be completed one day. We can be confident of this very reality. Though Job did not understand all that God was doing, he was able to confidently say, “But he knoweth the way that I take, when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold” (Job 23:10). Paul wrote in Philippians 1:6, “Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.” We can be assured that our salvation will one day be completed; there are no exceptions. It allows challenges into our lives, many of which will bring us back to these bedrock truths. Keeping these truths in the forefront of your mind will enable you to glorify Him, even when the challenges abound, and the questions remain unanswered.

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June 2018 - Blue Ridge Christian News page 26
Serving a Mighty God
By John and Steph Limongello
Mitchell and Yancey Counties

“For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.” Habakkuk 2:3

When God gave us the vision for the Charis Children’s Foundation it seemed like we were in a dream. Day after day God showed His hand of direction and blessing as we were able to get everything set in order in what can only be considered miraculous time. We were excited, overwhelmed, and anxiously anticipating the next step.

Then the doors seemed to stop opening, and as day after day of the heavens being silent we questioned had we missed His direction. We found ourselves in the midst of unanswered questions and seemingly insurmountable obstacles. Everything that could be shaken in our life was being shaken.

We see our faces to seek God’s direction for CCF, and yet no answers seemed to come. We applied for a large grant to get the Charis Community Health and Healing Center open so we could provide health care at low or no cost to our community, but it was denied. It seemed support was waning, and the battle of life was crowding out the vision.

As I sit writing this update we still don’t have all the answers. But it occurs to me that this must have been how the children of Israel felt when they were miraculously delivered from Pharaoh, saw his armies destroyed then found themselves wandering in the desert. God’s promise had not changed, they just didn’t understand that the desert was part of God’s plan.

The desert is a place of inner working, God bringing the vision to reality in the hearts of His people so that nothing can make them turn. We have been blessed to have several volunteers come along beside us during this time. When the next deeper we will be ready to take the next step. We currently have volunteer medical providers, office staff, counselors, custodial staff to provide a weekly free medical clinic when the funding to open the Charis Community Health and Healing Center becomes available. In the waiting we are continuing to help families with the resources we have available.

John and I know what God has called us to do. The vision is to provide hope to those at-risk children in our area through the love of Jesus which has not changed. We find ourselves in an uncomfortable place of waiting, praying and waiting some more. Part of the waiting process means we have been focusing on the Charis Project: Live It Out Album.

God told us the music would open the hearts of people to hear the message. On June 27, 7 PM at The Bridge of NWC, The Charis Project: Live It out will be recorded live in a free concert. We would love for everyone to join us to celebrate what God has done, and praise Him for what is yet to come. The vision for CCF is still alive and God is still in control.

We are confident that He who began a good work in us is faithful to complete it. Phil 1:6. We are still in need of volunteers to start our air compute program for local foster families. This is a program that requires minimal funding, but tremendous manpower. If you have a heart to speak hope into the lives of children, please contact us.

Thank you to everyone that has stood behind us during this time of waiting.

We believe God is about to show himself mighty on behalf of the children in our community through Charis Children’s Foundation. We serve a mighty God! We encourage you as we are to keep pressing into God, don’t let go of the dream He has given you, and though the vision tarry, wait for it!!

John and Stephanie Limongello reside in Burnsville, NC. They were married in 2000 and have two beautiful young sons, John David and Daniel. John was raised in New Jersey. He has earned his Bachelor’s and Master’s in Social Work. Stephanie was raised in Yancey County, NC and works as a Nurse Practitioner. They attend the Bridge Church of NWC. View our video and donate at https://www.gofundme.com/charischildrenfoundation. Contact at charischildrenfoundation@gmail.com, Facebook: Charis Children’s Foundation and The Charis Project: Live It Out. Call 828-667-5485 for more information.

As part of our spreading “Good News”, we have provided these pages for information for your organization or church that would be of interest to the public. I send out reminders in a group email to remind those of you who have requested it, or used this service regularly. If you wish to be added to the email please email me at barbarah@brcnews.com. One of the things any of you using this service needs to remember is that we publish only once a month and the info has to be submitted a month ahead. When sending info please send to my email: barbarah@brcnews.com.

A great way to get your meeting dates, events, and other info to the public.
Avery County

Avery County Events:
June TBD Wine and Beer Festival
July 20-22 July Fire Art & Master Crafts Festival, Dowsona Bamae Elk

Barke County

Barke County Chamber - The Burke County Chamber is currently looking for our next President/CEO to lead the chamber. Please see the job description at this website. https://ttnylr.com/8or4cJp

SHERI’S SCHOOL OF DANCE is excited to announce the first annual 2018 SUMMER DANCE CAMPS WITH KESHA! If you have any dancers is your life ages 3 and up, please tell them about the summer camps! We will have lots of fun and do lots of dancing in many genres! This is the perfect opportunity for dancers to experience different forms of dance in a creative environment with dancers of all levels from beginner to advanced. You can register online at www.danseholl.com/summercamps or in person at Sheri’s School of Dance.
Please contact Keisha Nichols at keashanicholsey@gmail.com or 646.789.9217 for additional questions and information.

Catawba River Baptists’ Association - World Changes (helping CRBA change Burke County one family at a time) will be happening July 15-21 and we need your help. We need 12 additional men/women who will serve as Crew Chairs for the teams of students. These folks should have some construction skills. We also need 2 more churches who will provide lunch for a team Tuesday through Friday. Lastly, we need churches to provide the pine each morning after the students leave for worksites. If you or your church can help us with any or all of these needs, please give us a call at our CRBA office at 828-437-0187.

Morganton Seventh-day Adventist Church- Vacation Bible School - The Parables of Jesus! - EVERYONE is invited! June 25th - June 29th. from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., at the Morganton Seventh-day Adventist Church, 2187 Jamestown Rd., Morganton, N.C. (Exit 68, Candy Road from I-40). For more information, please contact Shelly at 828-390-6899. Please bring your children and explore the Parables of Jesus! There will be snacks, games, music, crafts & more! Health Social - Sunday, June 10th, at 5:30 pm, for directions and more information, please contact Cindy at 828-510-8048.

God's Closet - Morganton
Phone: 828-244-3870
E-Mail: mgc@godscloset.com
Website - www.godscloset.com
Facebook - God's Closet - Morganton
@godsclosetmorganton
After visiting the God's Closet - Morganton Facebook page please like and share with your friends!

Town of Valdese


The Valdese Farmers Market has opened at its new location at the Old Rock School. Vendor spaces are available and you can read about it on the old Rock site. There will be up and ready to sell at 11am and will stay open until 4pm on Fridays.

"We are excited to bring the Farmers Market to the Old Rock School front lawn, shared Morissa Angi Community Affairs Director for the Town of Valdese. "We hope to increase visibility of the market and create a stronger number of regular shoppers with the new location.

Farmers are invited to setup their produce underneath the large tree on the front lawn at this time. On Market Fridays, Farmers that are interested in participating can download the vendor application at valdese.com.

McDowell County

Cross United Methodist Church - 247 Sherry Food Pantry at Cross United Methodist Church is Marion. The food is available for anyone in the county that is in need and available 24 hours a day. 7 days a week with no questions asked. We do ask however that you take only what you need items will be left for others who may be in need. The church is located at 85 W. Cross Street in Marion.

First Baptist of Marion - Wondering how you can help with Vacation Bible School this summer? Well, here are a few places you might think of plugging in: Island Crew Leaders/Assistant. Crew Leaders and Assistant led their assigned group of kids through the VBS classes and activities. You all form a small family for the week. Albert de Leue. Writer and Historian of the Waldensian Settlements in South America.

Grace Community Church - Ecuador Mission Trip - We will be taking a group to Ecuador in June of 2018 to help with construction, medical assessments and support for women and children. The cost is $1,500 (more info to come). If you are interested email robin@gracecfo.org

Mitchell County

Bear Creek Baptist Church - Women’s Prayer Breakfast June 8th, 5:00am at DT’s. Celebrate Recovery - This is a Christian and Biblical Based Program, giving hope and help for men, women and families suffering from addiction. Any questions contact Josh Wine @ 385-0061.

Calvary Chapel Ashville - 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 707 Bdea Drive. (entrance area-off of Brushy Creek Rd). Call John Jackson 760-793-7979 for information and directions. And bring your Bible.


First Baptist Church - Old Timers Cruisin’ DownTown Spruce Pine, June 2nd 5 till 9 Rain date June 9th

4th Annual Fund Raiser Baptists’ Golf Tournament—Hole in One NEW CAROLINA AT&T—July 7, 2018 8:30 shotgun start. Grassy Creek Golf Course $59 each and includes lunch. Contact: the church for more info.

Grassy Creek Baptist Church - Vacation Bible School will be held at Grassy Creek Baptist Church June 25-29. This year’s theme is “Shipwrecked, Rescued by Jesus!” Children will have nightly bible lessons, crafts, music and more. VBS will meet in the Family Life Center behind the church from 6:00-8:30 each night, a light meal will be served to the kids at 5:00. If your child needs to ride the bus, please call the church office (765-6265) to get signed up. Adults will also have Bible School in the sanctuary each Monday through Thursday at 7:00. Grassy Creek Baptist Church will host a Wild Game Dinner for men on Saturday, June 5th from 6-8:00pm. Billy “Catfish” Pirkle of the Outdoor Channel’s show, “Flesh and Blood” will be here speaking. There will be door prizes and a Big Buck show case. You are encouraged to bring your big buck and show him off. We will also be eating a meal of hamburgers, hotdogs and a variety of wild game meats. There is no admission fee, but we will take donations at the door. We invite all hunters and fishermen to come and bring your children that hunting/fishing with you! For more information call Pastor Nathaniel at 765-4620.

North Carolina Rhododendron Festival Celebrates 72 Years and 2 full days of family fun - On June 15 and 16, the Town of Bakersville, “Gateway to the Kona and the Smokies,” will host its 72nd North Carolina Rhododendron Festival which is among the oldest and most respected festivals in the Southeast. The Rhododendron Festival Arts and Crafts Fair on both Friday and Saturday will have live music: all day, a special children’s interactive play on Saturday, food vendors including local farms to table selections, authentic Hispanic and Oriental chocolates, food fired pizza and popular sweet treats; regional arts and crafts vendors; commercial vendors; inflatables and train rides for the kids; nonprofit exhibits; and the famous Ducky Derby. There’s a classic car show on Saturday as well as a 10K run and street dancing both Friday and Saturday nights til midnight. The Festival
Bits ‘n Pieces
will feature the Rhododendron Festival Pageant on Friday and Saturday evenings. Come to Bakerville! You will be a few steps away from the world class galleries and other great local artists. Arts and Crafts people as well as commercial vendors space is available. Contact Dr. Dan Barron dbarron@collaa.com or 828-254-1914 http://www.nchd.org/bakerville.htm

Mitchell County Baptist Association - Good News Bible Clubs: There will be a new chapter for Mitchell Yancey Avery and McDowell Counties. Growth is always good. Training dates for the new volunteers is Aug. 4th Burke and McDowell, Aug. 19th Avery and Aug. 18th Avery and Yancey county location to be announced 9-3.

Mitchell County Chamber - The NC Mineral and Gem Festival is one of the largest and longest running events in our area and it takes everyone to make it happen each year! MCA is proud to host our team as an event sponsor this year! It takes nearly a hundred volunteers to make this event happen for everyone and it takes our great sponsors too! Our sponsors’ support helps to spread the word about the event throughout the south in East Tennessee to help bring more people to the event and to our local businesses. Email us for sponsorship information!

Pealnd School Discounts for Area Residents - Pealnd School of Crafts has open spaces in its first summer session available at half tuition to area residents. The discount is available to residents of the following Western North Carolina counties: Ashe, Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Cherokee, Graham, Clay, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Swain, Transylvania, Watauga, and Yancey, and the following counties: Cherokee, Carter, Coehe, Greene, Johnson, Sullivan, Unicoi, and Washington. Regular room and board charges apply, but students are not required to stay on campus. The two-week session runs May 27 through June 5 with spaces in glassblowing, iron, metal, letterpress, print, textiles, and wood. The glassblowing workshop will focus on the basic techniques for shaping hot glass. In the iron workshop, students will learn blacksmithing skills while making usable items. In the letterpress workshop, students will learn to fabricate in aluminum and add color to the metal through etching. The letterpress workshop will cover typesetting, press operation, woodcut printing, and making posters that combine text and images. Next door in the printshop students will be trained in a variety of intaglio techniques and then make some of their prints into kits. The textiles workshop will focus on a traditional Indian dye-pointing techniques known as kalamkari. And the wood workshop will be all about designing and making tables.

Springwood Mountain - Equestrian Camp July 10-12, 2018! We are pleased to offer an Equestrian Day Camp for riders of various skill levels. Campers will work on general horsemanship, riding skills, trail work, and equestrian arts and games. Campers will work on skills with our experienced instructors and friends and family on Friday. Camp will be held Tuesday-Friday a 9 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Camp is $100.00 and is for children ages 8-14. For more information please call 828-755-2353.

Springwood Mountain - Equestrian Nothing May 7-10, 2018! We are pleased to offer an Equestrian Day Camp for riders of various skill levels. Campers will work on general horsemanship, riding skills, trail work, and equestrian arts and games. Campers will work on skills with our experienced instructors and friends and family on Friday. Camp will be held Tuesday-Friday a 9 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Camp is $100.00 and is for children ages 8-14. For more information please call 828-755-2353.

Tipton Hill Community Foundation - (Tipton Hill) – Country Breakfast, the first Saturday each month, 7:30 to 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.

Final Evening at Trinity Episcopal Church is located at 15 Hemlock Avenue in Spruce Pine in the English Woods neighborhood. For more information about this evening or about the church, please email TECJP13@AOL.com or (828)20-1151. The choir of Trinity Episcopal Church will stage its final Evening for the season on Sunday, Sunday, June 10, 2018 at 5:00PM. Entitled “In Praise of Malers”, this evening will celebrate the many fine crafts people that are found in our area. Music for the evening will include works by Herbert Samuel, Thomas Babin, and the author of the Morning Prayer of St. Francis. Rev. Tom Rumsey presides. Rev. Stephen Paulus. Trinity will be filled with wonderful music during the service but it will also be filled with art work from around the area. All are invited to a reception following Evening.

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 fellowship, you are invited to breakfast at DT’s in Spruce Pine. We will be ending by 10:00am. Open to all-for more information call Barbara Harville at 828-497-3064 or email at barbara@bcrnews.com. June meeting is 9th, at 8:00am.

Yancey County

Parkway Playhouse Presents The Hilarious High Flying Farce: Boeing Boeing - BURLINGTON, NC: The non-stop comedy, Boeing Boeing is set to open at Parkway Playhouse on June 2. Directed by Dwight Chiles (director of last season’s Bonnie & Clyde), Parkway Playhouse’s production features Christine Caldeuweyer, Allan Law, Sanaaah Lebeouf, Myra McCory, Morgan Miller, and Daniel Moore. Performances are on Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30pm and Sunday at 3pm through June 16th.

Following the performance on opening night, June 2, a complimentary Opening Night Reception for the cast and audience will be held. And on Sundays, June 3 and 10, the cast will sit for post show discussions. Audience members can ask questions about everything from costumes to scenic design, acting and their individual lives.

Tickets range from $11 for children to $22 for adults. All performances are at the historic Parkway Playhouse theatre, located at 202 Green Mountain Drive in Burnsville, NC. Tickets can be purchased by visiting the Parkway Playhouse Box Office (open 1-5pm Tuesday through Saturday), calling 828-962-4381, or by visiting the Parkway Playhouse website. Parkway Playhouse’s 2018 Mainstage Season is sponsored by WYKE/WTOE and Switzerland Inn and Chatelet Restaurant. For more information about Parkway Playhouse, including performances, classes, and volunteer opportunities, please call 828-682-2381 or visit the Parkway Playhouse website at www.parkwayplayhouse.com.

Shoals Creek Baptist Church - Here are upcoming events at Shoals Creek Baptist Church. June 17, 2011 Father’s Day Service June 23, 2011—Polka Blast VBS and Family Impact Day 1-6 PM June 24, 2011—Deacon Ordination service @ 11:00 AM

South Pirates Baptist Church - Women’s Bible Study Group, Steps, at South Baptist Church Sunday at 6pm. Tuesday 10th through Saturday 5th. Learn the steps of how to re-align yourself with Christ. Recover redemption through a right relationship with the Father, Son & Holy Spirit. Let God meet you where you are through every struggle, every circumstance, every relationship. The focus of the morning is how to deal with the heart of the issue. Recover what is lost or broken. Let God meet you where you are. All ladies are welcome and you can still come if you missed a class. Contact Haley Johnson. 284-8289

Annual Benefit Art Auction Saturday, July 7 - Burnsville Town Center Now Accepting Artist Donations. Please call 828-682-7215 or email Kate.

ASAP (Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project), in partnership with Duke University World Food Policy Center, University of North Carolina Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention, and MAHEC, will present the Healthy Living in Practice Conference August 20-29, 2018, at the Omni Grove Park Inn. Daphne Miller, M.D., author of Farmacy, will give a keynote address on the intersection of farming, food, and health.

On June 23 and 24, over 20 Appalachian Grower™ family farms will welcome visitors to their farms during the highly anticipated Farm Tour. This fun and educational weekend offers a public a chance to experience firsthand how food is grown and is raised in the mountains, sample farm-fresh products, and meet the community’s local producers.

This year represents the 20th anniversary of ASAP’s Farm Tour. ASAP will present a variety of activities to celebrate the anniversary including contests, giveaways, and a special celebration of the Farm Tour at Asheville City Market on June 2, 2018.

New Community Outreach Benefits: Haywood County Families with Children B.E.A.R. Closet (Baby Equipment and Resource Closet)

Beginning Wednesday, March 21, 2018 the Haywood Parish Baby Equipment and Resource Closet (B.E.A.R.)) located at Francis Cove United Methodist Church 2130 Crones Cove Road, Waynesville, will begin a new outreach ministry in the local community. This is a shared ministry between five local United Methodist churches: Bakersville, Elizabeth Chapel, Faith, Maple Grove, and Francis Cove that are reaching out to serve low income families and expectant parents struggling to care for their babies and children. The B.E.A.R. Closet will provide free gently used clothing (sizes preemies to 4 toddler), shoes, baby equipment such as strollers, high chairs, swings, pack’n play, bouncy seats, bathing and hygiene products, bedding items, as well as love and encouragement to expecting moms and parents. The outreach will be open the first and third Thursdays of every month 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. Please call (828) 476-8582 and leave a detailed message, and a B.E.A.R. Closet representative will return your call within 24 hours.

Mays Landing Community College

Allen Cook, Director, Mayland Small Business Center (828) 766-1295 scook@mayland.edu

Introduction to QuickBooks: Class One (3 Hours)

Class one of this four class series will discuss the features of QuickBooks Online and Desktop. Determining if QuickBooks is a right fit for you by "test driving" the software on a sample business. Computers with QuickBooks installed will be available to use at class.

6/5, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Fee Waived

Sink-Morris, Mayland Main Campus, Spruce Pine

QuickBooks Test Drive: Class Two (3 Hours)

QuickBooks taught by a CPA! Class two will focus on setting up QuickBooks in a manner that will work best for your business. Explore feature while learning how to launch the QuickBooks program. Class will work with a sample business downloaded on the Mayland computers.

6/7, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Fee Waived

Sink-Morris, Mayland Main Campus, Spruce Pine

QuickBooks Test Drive: Class Three (3 Hours)

continued on page 34
Altopass Baptist Church

Trail Life
By Marcus Benfield
Mitchell County

Hello everyone. I trust you are enjoying your Summer. I know it’s been a while since I last wrote. I have been very busy with a sick mother and wife. However, both are doing better, and I am thankful. I know many of you prayed as well and I thank you also.

As we enter the summer months we often talk about our summer plans. We look for things to do, especially with our children as well as we should. However, as Christians we believe according to Psalm 133:3-4, to attend children is an act of the LORD, and the fruit of the womb is his reward. With that in mind I hope over the next couple of months to offer some opportunities for our children as well as give us adults a wonderful opportunity to grow in the precious young lives.

Here at Altopass we are a sponsor to Nationally known and accredited youth organizations. They are: Trail Life USA (for the young men) and American Heritage Girls (for the young ladies). Both these groups meet here at the church (located at 3631 Altopass Hwy, Spruce Pine, NC 28777) every Monday at 6:45 PM. They are both worthwhile organizations.

This month I am going to focus on Trail Life USA. Next month (Lord willing) I’ll focus on American Heritage Girls.

Trail Life USA is a Christ Centered young man’s organization available to all boys age 5-18. I personally believe that it is our duty as Christians to properly train our young people to become respectable Godly adult. Trail Life is a great way to do that for young men.

Please understand this is not just an Altopass thing. We are simply the Charter Organization for this program. It is open to all boys regardless of race creed or denomination. Remember it is a Christ centered organization. Therefore, if you or someone you know of is interested in attending, please let me know. We are welcoming all to become a part of our group.

As far as the program goes we have to set up a schedule and it does have to be followed. We have weekly meetings and activities that are designed to build a strong foundation for the young man.

Also important to note is that our meetings are not just for the boys but also for the parents. It is important that we all work together as a team to ensure that our young men are being properly trained.

Below I have included some basic information taken from the Trail Life USA website. Please read through it and prayerfully consider enrolling your son and please consider volunteering.

After reading if you have questions you may contact me (The Charter Rep) at 828-650-1346 or Richard Crouse (The Charter Rep) at 828-208-1051. You may also come to one of our meetings and just sit in and observe without any obligation.

Thank you for reading and may God bless each of you.

Trail Life USA

Who We Are:
The Statements of Faith and Values are designed to affirm the need for those in church leadership to follow biblical standards. Leaders are held to a higher standard than those who are not in leadership and must agree to the tenets contained in the Statements. Youth members are not required to sign these statements. Trail Life USA is a Christ-centered outdoor adventure, leadership, and character development ministry. Within the operation of the local Troop, the primary dimension/profession of faith is beliefs, faith, and/or doctrine that is belonging to the Charter Organization. As with any of its ministries, the Charter Organization supports Trail Life USA and its Statement of Faith and Values.

Statement of Faith:
We believe in One Triune God — God the Father, Jesus Christ, His one and only Son, and the Holy Spirit — Creator of the universe and eternally existent. We believe the Holy Scriptures (Old and New Testaments) to be the inspired and authoritative Word of God. We believe each person is created in His image for the purpose of communicating with and worshipping Him. We believe in the deity of the Holy Spirit. Who enables us to live godly lives. We believe that, if called to love the Lord our God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength, and to love our neighbors as ourselves. We believe God calls us to live of purity, service, stewardship, and integrity.

Statement of Values:
Duty: God calls us to live of holiness, being pure of heart mind, word and deed. We are to reserve sexual activity for the sanctity of marriage, a lifelong commitment before God between a man and a woman.

Service: God calls us to become responsible members of our community and the world through actions that contribute to the well-being of others.

Stewardship: God calls us to use our God-given time, talents, and money wisely.

Integrity: God calls us to live moral lives that demonstrate an inward motivation to do what is biblically right regardless of the cost.

Membership Standards:
Membership in the program has both youth and adult elements. Youth membership in the program is open to all who meet the membership requirements, and is currently designed for biologically male children under the age of 18. The adult applicant must be at least 18 years of age and subscribes to and abide by the Trail Life USA Statement of Christian Faith and Values as well as the Code of Conduct.
The Dangers of Strangulation
By Beth Davis

A few weeks ago, the big national news cycle was fueled by the downfall of powerful former New York Attorney General, Eric Schneiderman. The accusations were so shocking…horrifying…that he resigned in disgrace within 3 hours of the revelation. As I was reading this, here’s a very short recap of his despicable behavior: Four women recently disclosed that he had slapped and strangled them on numerous occasions - so severely at times that he left days-long bruise marks on their faces or bruises on their necks. At least two of the women sought medical treatment. The first case after his rise to prominence came to light. I happened upon a riveting article by Kate Manne about what strangulation means, and I shared it with a couple of my coworkers. We agreed that it was too important not to share, and Ms. Manne graciously gave her permission to submit it to the Blue Ridge Christian News.

Eric Schaeidman and the Meaning of Strangulation
By Kate Manne

It doesn’t take much to cut off someone’s oxygen supply, or to restrict blood flow to and from her brain. Around 10 seconds of pressure on the carotid artery, either constant or intermittent, is usually enough to render the victim unconscious, and it requires less pressure than it takes to open a can of soda. This is often labeled “choke” — as it was in an article this week in The New Yorker, by Jane Mayer and Raquel on which Eric Schneiderman, New York’s former attorney general, allegedly assaulted women in this manner. But the domestic and intimate partner violence prevention community generally insists on calling such violence “strangulation.” Choking is a term for an internal blockage of the swary from, for example, a piece of food “going down the wrong way” and getting lodged in the windpipe. When used to refer to the deliberate acts of abuse that is strangulation, “choke” is very much a misnomer — and a dangerous one. It minimizes.

Nonfatal strangulation is a well-known precursor to intimate-partner homicide. Victims of such attacks are some seven times more likely to become the victim of an attempted homicide by the same perpetrator. The New Yorker article noted the irony that Mr. Schneiderman himself had written legislation that established stiff penalties against those who strangle. “This will save a lot of lives,” he predicted.

Given that the victims of strangulation are typically (though not exclusively) women, and the perpetrators are almost exclusively male, this has long been an issue of central concern to women’s legal rights advocates. And Mr. Schneiderman’s recent efforts to bring Harvey Weinstein to justice have similarly raised moral questions as an ally in fighting the good fight against misogyny. So the acts of violence he is accused of have been portrayed not just as hypocrisies, but baffling.

Acts of strangulation are highly harmful in their own right, especially when repeated as they often are. They can cause cumulative brain damage, throat injuries, and damage to the vocal cords, among other injuries. In this even when the injury leaves no external bruise, scratch or abrasion — as is the case in about half of strangulation cases. And less than half of these visible marks, it is, are deep or dark or appear quickly enough to show up in police photographs. Intimate-partner violence experts who have campaigned for specific policy initiatives against strangulation (rather than it being some assault, typically a misnomer), as it remains in some states) emphasize both its dangers, and its frequently concealed, and hence invisible, nature.

In addition to causing great pain and fear, strangulation sends a powerful message. What strangulation effectively communicates to a victim, more clearly than words could, is that an abuser is willing to exert punitive control by preying on her most fundamental vulnerabilities — such as the bodily imperative to gasp for air when she cannot breathe, and the desperate urge to end the intense pain that strangulation causes.

Experts compare the sensation of being strangled to waterboarding; it is traumatizing and torturous. And then there is the terrifying knowledge that someone is deliberately causing your body to this protest, which in itself may be what breaks you. Mr. Schneiderman’s actions, when he was a state assemblyman, were cited in his court records, as he rose in power. (In cases, the much-cited gender dynamic, according to some studies), is deeply patriarchal and misogynistic. He has shown her what he is prepared to do to enforce his will if she defies him — this being, in effect, the most basic form of patriarchal governance.

“It is the law,” Mr. Schneiderman was quoted as saying one of his accusers, Michelle Manning Barish, as he yanked her across the street (to demonstrate he could “just walk around the universe, ostensibly). The picture of the painting is of a man who does not view himself as subject to the law, but as tasked solely with its creation and enforcement — and, of course, is pre-emptive over-policing to establish his authority. On the right and left in politics, and extending far beyond that, we find some such men who purport to be proponents of law and order. And so they are, in a way, but it is patriarchal (and also, in some cases, white supremacist) law and order, where he rules and others obey, submit and follow. It is not so different to be a victim of strangulation to be the victim.

Many will take this question as a puzzle, not a rhetorical one. So perhaps this is an apt moment to point out a dark but important truth about intimate-partner violence: Some abusers are perfectly well aware of what they are doing, at least at a certain level. And that is why they do it. They want to maintain dominance and achieve control over their female partners, among others. And that is why an abuser may resort to the cruellest and most covert of methods, such as cutting off her air supply with his bare hands, leaving no bruises.

Kate Manne is an assistant professor of philosophy at Cornell University and the author of “Down Girl: The Logic of Misogyny.”

As always, if you or someone you know is a victim of interpersonal/domestic violence or sexual assault, Mitchell County SafePlace welcomes your call. Your call, very costly and compassionate advocates are available 24/7 to help you. 24-Hour Hotline: 828-755-0404.

Beth Davis is the Resource Development Coordinator at Mitchell County SafePlace. She can be reached at 828-755-4011 or bethbdavis00@gmail.com.

Historic VALDESE, north carolina

Upcoming Events in Valdese

Family Friday Nights
Free concerts every Friday Night May-September.
7 pm at The Wells Fargo Parking lot
Valdese Farmers Market
May 15-September 28 Fridays from 4-7 pm
Old Rock School Front Lawn

Independence Day Celebration
June 29, 2018 7 pm
Music from Too Much Sylvia, Food Trucks, Beer Garden, Fireworks at dusk.

43rd Annual Waldensian Festival
August 10th: Festival kick off from the Artium Pyle Band
Honoring the Music of Ronnie Van Zant’s Lynyrd Skynyrd
August 11th over 170 vendors, live music and performances all day, ending with a performance from The Band of Oz at 7 pm.

Check out our new Website www.brcnews.com
And find us on Facebook

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US House of Representatives NC District 11

More Information on the Department of Justice

The more we learn about the early stages of the investigation into the Trump campaign, and the beginning of the Mueller investigation, the more we learn that James Comey, Rod Rosenstein, and President Obama's Department of Justice were not honest with the American people.

To this day, the Department of Justice has still neglected to turn over documents to Congress. Rep. Jim Jordan (R-OH), Rep. Ron DeSantis (R-FL), and I recently asked the President in a letter to instruct the DOJ to release all relevant documents on potential FISA abuse, the initial investigation of the Trump campaign prior to the appointment of Mueller, and more.

I’m all for getting to the truth about what happened. The FBI engaged in nefarious behavior and political targeting, Americans deserve to know about it. The DOJ needs to give us the documents.

Americans deserve the truth. It’s about time the Department of Justice stop hiding it from them.

Pushing for Congressional Term Limits

I’m working with a bipartisan group of lawmakers, along with President Trump, to push Congressional term limits — an issue supported by 80% of the public. Our meeting with President Trump went very well.

The founders never intended Congress to become a career — the fact it has turned into such is a significant reason why Washington is so out of touch with Cron 100% on both Congressional term limits.

Let’s make this policy happen and return influence back where it belongs: to Main Street American citizens.

U.S. Withdraws from Iran Deal

President Trump recently announced that the United States will officially withdraw from the Iran Nuclear Deal. This is excellent news. From its very inception, the Iran Deal was nothing short of a foreign policy debacle — the President is absolutely right to restate sanctions and withdraw from the agreement.

The United States can do better — and we will. This is a victory for a safer and more secure America.

NC Senate District 47

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

When Republicans took control of the North Carolina General Assembly in 2010, one of our main priorities was working to ensure North Carolina students’ success, both from a policy point and a budgetary one. Key to increasing the education budget was a shift away from the failed fiscal policies of over one hundred years of Democratic control of the legislature, which had resulted in a $2.5 billion budget shortfall and a $2 billion debt to the federal government for unemployment claims. The Democratic management of the budget resulted in a lack of adequate funding for public education, leaving our state’s teachers salaries frozen for many years and our students without needed textbooks.

Under the leadership of Democrats, textbook funding was slashed nearly $109 million during the last years they controlled the budget, FY 2010-2011. Since Republicans took control of the state budget in 2011, state spending on education is set to realize a gain of more than $2 billion through fiscal 2018, state budget funding education. We have increased textbook funding and passed legislation to ensure that local school administration actually spend state money for textbooks as intended, instead of using those funds for something else.

As promised by Republicans five years ago, North Carolina teacher salaries have risen dramatically through five consecutive pay raises. Teacher pay increased to $35,000 and average teacher pay for the 2018-19 school year will be roughly $53,600. Specifically, teachers with five years of experience will earn $79,200 more in 2018-19 than they did in 2013-14 from $30,800 to $40,000, a 26.0 percent increase. Teachers with twelve years of experience will earn $15,300 more in 2018-19 than they did in 2013-14 from $61,700 to $47,400, a 41 percent increase. Teachers with sixteen years of experience will earn $11,840 more in 2018-19 than they did in 2013-14 from $38,160 to $50,000, a 31 percent increase. Teacher with twenty-five years of experience will earn $9,040 more in 2018-19 than they did in 2013-14 from $42,240 to $51,200, a 21.4 percent increase.

The NC Senate has also made history this year with the passage of new policies and laws to protect our state and its citizens. These policies include legislation to ensure that our state’s health care system is protected, our environment is preserved, and our economy continues to grow.

NC House District 86

Rep. Hugh Blackwell
919-733-5805
Hugh.blackwell@ncleg.net

As some of you may know, Morganton will be the new home for the second North Carolina School of Science and Math campus. Although located in western North Carolina, and perhaps having heightened appeal to students and families from the region, it will serve the entire state. Once the school opens in fall of 2021, each student applying can specify his or her first and second preference as to either the Morganton or Durham campuses. In addition, there is an online, non-residential, virtual “campus” that affords a third option.

Spring brings a new phase in planning for the new Morganton campus. This new planning stage involves creation of two steering committees whose primary focus is to actively engage communities and individuals from across the greater western part of the state. These committees will include representatives from UNC, community colleges and E-12 education as well as state and local governments and business and industry.

The first committee is the External Engagement Steering Team. It will focus on advising NCSSM-Morganton on the creation of a first, robust pool of benefactors. The team will be tasked with raising $5 million to add to $15 million in additional capital funding that is needed from the state now that a fuller picture of actual construction needs is available from project architects and planners. The additional money will go towards building the full campus in Morganton as laid out in the approved master plan. With funding needs met, the project should be completed in 2021.

The second team created is the Campus Operations Steering Team. This team currently has sixteen members. It has two main charges. The first is to advise on more “nuts and bolts” issues such as schematic designs, business procedures and school infrastructure. The second focus is another forum of community outreach and engagement. Thus, Campus Operations Steering will work to build partnerships with businesses and industries that may provide actual internships or lab experiences for students. The team will also work to connect the new Morganton campus to other educational institutions to promote collaboration and campuses recognition.

With the addition of these two teams, plans for the North Carolina School of Science and Math in Morganton are moving forward. Currently, things are ahead of the original timeline. When the campus is completed and operational, I am confident it will be a great asset to our state and region. It will allow substantially more of our best students to access the rigorous education that can prepare them for the careers of the future and without having to move to Durham. With the school’s innovative science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) curriculum, and given the success of the current NCSSM campus in Durham, there is real reason for high expectations for our students once the school is up and running.

NCSSM Morganton Update

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Legislative leaders announce economic development, job recruitment budget provisions

Senate Leader Phil Berger and House Speaker Tim Moore announced the fortunacous budget increase in key changes to economic development programs that are expected to help secure major jobs announcement in North Carolina in the coming months.

The legislation will modify the state’s existing economic development and jobs recruitment program based on feedback obtained during prior efforts to recruit large private sector employers as well as recent conversations between lawmakers and prospective companies across many sectors of the economy looking to move to North Carolina.

Among other changes, it will:

- Enable a company that commits to investing at least $1 billion and creating at least 3,000 new jobs in North Carolina to be eligible for a transformative project award under the state’s Job Development Investment Grant (JDIG) program. These thresholds are based on research conducted by the General Assembly’s economic team regarding the level at which a major corporate relocation will have an immediate positive impact on state revenues.
- Allow transformative projects to receive credit for “expansion positions” above the 3,000-job minimum that are created during the term of a JDIG agreement. This will encourage companies to grow in North Carolina beyond its initial job commitment.
- Lengthen the base period for transformative projects to 10 years and also extend the maximum JDIG term for transformative projects to the base period plus an additional 30 years. This will provide more long-term certainty to companies considering North Carolina.
- Eliminate the $5,000 cap per job for JDIG awards for transformative projects. This will help attract higher-paying jobs.
- Modify the award that is available to high-yield and transformative projects so that 10 percent of that benefit is directed to the state Utility Account – the fund designed to support economic development projects in rural North Carolina. Previously, the company received 10 percent of the award. This will help make certain that the positive impact of major job recruitment is felt by the entire state.

Since 2011, legislative Republicans have undertaken major pro-growth reforms to fix North Carolina’s business climate and spur economic growth. Based on our direct conversations with companies, we know those reforms have made us more competitive than ever before.

Wednesday was the Legislature’s first day back for the short session. I met with several teachers and education advocates. Most were professional and courteous. The few who were not ruined the day for the rest. Shouting and disruption in the halls and in the gallery only took away from the otherwise productive debate of critical issues.

Many teachers were surprised to see the progress we’ve made in the past few years. Sometimes it is good to stop and take a critical look at the progress GOP leadership has produced. I welcome anyone who is interested in viewing where you were under Democrat control and where you are now.

I admire teachers who can move children ahead in growth. We’re now paying large bonuses to these teachers. They deserve every penny of it.

Keep up the good work. Here are a few education funding quick facts:
- $55,000: Average teacher salary in 2018-19.
- $55,000: Average teacher raise since 2013.
- 19%: Average percentage pay increase since 2013.
- 3.1%: Increase in lifetime earning potential of a N.C. teacher since 2013.
- 5: Number of consecutive teacher pay raises under GOP leadership.
- 0.5%: Percentage increase in teacher salary voted by Gov. Roy Cooper.
- 44,647: Number of teachers who received a pay increase of at least $10,000 since 2013.
- $2 billion+: Increase in recurring yearly funding for education since 2013.

A great resource for teacher pay information can be found at ncteachherbase.com.

School safety bill passes House

With today’s school shooting in Texas, school safety is front-of-mind for members of the General Assembly. The Select Committee on School Safety met over the legislative interim to produce 14 recommendations to improve school safety in North Carolina. On Thursday, the House acted on the committee’s first recommendation by passing House Bill 933 — Reciprocity/ School Psychologist Licensure.

The General Assembly appropriated funds for school psychologists as part of last year’s budget, but positions remain unfilled due to licensure restrictions currently in place. House Bill 933 addresses the problem by granting "a license to practice as a school psychologist to any individual who holds the nationally certified school psychologist credential," according to the bill. The bill now heads to the Senate for their consideration.

You can expect to see the House consider several of the House Select Committee on School Safety’s recommendations over the next few weeks. We will be moving quickly to implement improvements to school safety.

N.C. port development: benefits economy statewide

Economic activity at our state’s ports has been constrained for decades. Large ships could neither enter nor navigate waters around our coast due to improper dredging — the water was too shallow. Even if ships could navigate the waters, our ports did not have the proper equipment to unload and load large ships — our cranes weren’t big enough.

Today, our waters are navigable. Today, new, larger cranes are being installed at the Port of Wilmington. The Neo-Panamax cranes at the Port of Wilmington will be fully operational in about 30 days. I took the opportunity to tour the port a couple of months ago as part of my work on transportation committees in the House of Representatives. You would not believe the size and scale of these cranes in person.

Increased operations at our ports will boost economic activity across North Carolina. The new cranes at the Port of Wilmington will be able to receive more containers from larger ships, and load those containers into trucks more quickly.

Truck drivers who live in Western North Carolina will benefit from the increased commercial activity at our ports. Any businesses that import products from around the world, or that export products, will benefit as well.

If you or someone you know owns a business that produces physical goods, you may want to take a look at export opportunities provided by our ports.

God Bless America

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This week, the Senate Intelligence Committee released the first installment of its Russia Report, this one regarding our updated recommendations and findings on election security. Tuesday’s primaries are the next step toward the 2018 midterms and another reminder of the urgency of securing our election systems. Our investigation has been a bipartisan effort from day one, and I look forward to completing the Committee’s work and releasing so much of it as possible. We are working tirelessly to give Americans a complete accounting of what happened in 2016 and to prevent any future interference with our democratic process.

I also led the Intelligence Committee’s confirmation hearing for Gina Haspel to be the next director of the Central Intelligence Agency. Ms. Haspel has been a leader in the field and at HQ. She has the courage to speak truth to power. She is intimately familiar with the threats facing our nation - because she’s faced them throughout her career. And she has the support of her peers, predecessors, and former Directors. It’s important to note the historic nature of Ms. Haspel’s nomination as the first woman to lead the Central Intelligence Agency, and the first in decades to come from the ranks of CIA. Others have cracked the glass ceiling - she is poised to break it. While many want to make Ms. Haspel’s nomination about a small piece of the agency’s past, most of us are looking toward the agency’s future. I support her confirmation and look forward to her confirmation.

Finally, North Carolinians are poised to get some much-needed relief as President Trump announced Tuesday a disaster declaration for two hard-hit counties in the state, Rockingham and Guilford. I, along with the rest of the North Carolina Congressional delegation, requested and received this declaration to allow families to begin to recover from the recent tornadoes that destroyed homes, the loss of property, and the loss of livestock. This assistance will help families get back on their feet and make their communities whole again. If you are a resident of these areas, please register with FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, online at www.DisasterAssistance.gov or call 1-800-621-3382.

Type of Assist: November 2017
- Meals Served in the Soup Kitchen: 6,250
- Meals Served in the Pantry: 1,250
- Food Distributed in the Pantry: 2,500 pounds
- Total Meals Served: 7,500

Type of Assist: December 2017
- Meals Served in the Soup Kitchen: 6,250
- Meals Served in the Pantry: 1,250
- Food Distributed in the Pantry: 2,500 pounds
- Total Meals Served: 7,500

Type of Assist: January 2018
- Meals Served in the Soup Kitchen: 5,125
- Meals Served in the Pantry: 1,250
- Food Distributed in the Pantry: 1,400 pounds
- Total Meals Served: 7,800

Type of Assist: February 2018
- Meals Served in the Soup Kitchen: 5,000
- Meals Served in the Pantry: 1,250
- Food Distributed in the Pantry: 1,400 pounds
- Total Meals Served: 7,650

QuickBooks Test Drive: Class Four (3 Hours)
The goal of this class series will be to explore the use of QuickBooks for payroll. Learn how to set up payroll and cut checks using QuickBooks payroll features. Cut checks and make deposits on a sample business in this test drive of the most popular small business accounting platform in use. 11/14, 11/21, 11/28, 12/5, 12/12, 12/19, 12/26. 6:30-8:30 p.m. Fee Waived. Sickness, Inclement Weather, Space Pine

How to Sell on Etsy (2 Hours)
Sell your art, jewelry, crafts, and vintage items via Etsy. Learn how to register, start selling, and manage your listings. 1/6, 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Fee Waived. Sickness, Inclement Weather, Space Pine

How to Sell on Amazon (2 Hours)
Amazon is the leading-ecommerce website in the United States with more than 350 million active users. In this fast-paced class top rated seller Nick Hawkins will teach you how to sell in the Amazon online marketplace. Gain knowledge on how to register online, choose the account that fits your goals, and list an item on Amazon for free to maximize your profitability. You’ll also learn how to ship your items or set Amazon up to ship them for you with “Fulfillment by Amazon” (FBA) shipping services. Learn how to make the most money with each sale. Seats are limited so sign up today! 1/8, 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Fee Waived. Sickness, Inclement Weather, Space Pine

- Register for FREE seminars & events here
- Free Confidential Counseling

As these numbers reveal, the need is great and continues to increase. The assistance through the Postal Carriers Food Drive, other food drives, and donations are essential to our mission in meeting the needs of others.

I also want to commiserate with those who have lost their jobs, houses, and lives and their children. They are not alone in their loss of loved ones. They are not alone in their struggle to start again. They are not alone in their search for hope.

As for the future, I ask that you please continue to lift our ministry in prayer. We are always looking for new ways to remain there for those who need us.

David Burke
Director of Burke United Christian Ministries

Burke United Christian Ministries

I want to personally thank everyone in Burke County who supported the food ministries in our county during the recent Letter Carriers Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive. A huge thank you is extended to all our letter carriers, all postal employees, Mr. Dale Barnum, Ms. Elizabeth Norris, Mr. Glen Remp, Mr. Stanley Lester, Mr. Stephen Kincard, Bryan and Joyce Goss, the FHS Anchor Club, the FHS Anchor and Interact Clubs, the Mr. Forno Baptist Youth and all the other volunteers. Without all the volunteers giving of their time, the 112 hours of work would have been impossible. We collected over 14,600 pounds of food. This additional food will assist the Burke United Christian Ministries in meeting the ever increasing needs of those we serve.

Just a look back at the comparison of the last four months this year to the same period last year reveals a larger increase in services needed.

Type of Assist: January 2017
- Meals Served in the Soup Kitchen: 6,059
- Meals Served in the Pantry: 467
- Food Distributed in the Pantry: 4,502 pounds
- Total Meals Served: 7,024

Type of Assist: February 2017
- Meals Served in the Soup Kitchen: 5,321
- Meals Served in the Pantry: 1,050
- Food Distributed in the Pantry: 4,192 pounds
- Total Meals Served: 6,563

Type of Assist: March 2017
- Meals Served in the Soup Kitchen: 5,600
- Meals Served in the Pantry: 1,229
- Food Distributed in the Pantry: 4,084 pounds
- Total Meals Served: 6,853

Type of Assist: April 2017
- Meals Served in the Soup Kitchen: 5,431
- Meals Served in the Pantry: 1,151
- Food Distributed in the Pantry: 3,931 pounds
- Total Meals Served: 6,663

Type of Assist: May 2017
- Meals Served in the Soup Kitchen: 5,100
- Meals Served in the Pantry: 1,050
- Food Distributed in the Pantry: 3,600 pounds
- Total Meals Served: 5,930

Type of Assist: June 2017
- Meals Served in the Soup Kitchen: 4,600
- Meals Served in the Pantry: 911
- Food Distributed in the Pantry: 3,011 pounds
- Total Meals Served: 5,500

Type of Assist: July 2017
- Meals Served in the Soup Kitchen: 5,000
- Meals Served in the Pantry: 909
- Food Distributed in the Pantry: 2,992 pounds
- Total Meals Served: 5,901

Type of Assist: August 2017
- Meals Served in the Soup Kitchen: 4,500
- Meals Served in the Pantry: 1,229
- Food Distributed in the Pantry: 2,930 pounds
- Total Meals Served: 5,959

Type of Assist: September 2017
- Meals Served in the Soup Kitchen: 4,000
- Meals Served in the Pantry: 930
- Food Distributed in the Pantry: 2,800 pounds
- Total Meals Served: 5,800

Type of Assist: October 2017
- Meals Served in the Soup Kitchen: 4,000
- Meals Served in the Pantry: 900
- Food Distributed in the Pantry: 2,700 pounds
- Total Meals Served: 4,900

Type of Assist: November 2017
- Meals Served in the Soup Kitchen: 4,000
- Meals Served in the Pantry: 800
- Food Distributed in the Pantry: 2,700 pounds
- Total Meals Served: 4,500

Type of Assist: December 2017
- Meals Served in the Soup Kitchen: 4,000
- Meals Served in the Pantry: 800
- Food Distributed in the Pantry: 2,700 pounds
- Total Meals Served: 4,500

Type of Assist: January 2018
- Meals Served in the Soup Kitchen: 4,000
- Meals Served in the Pantry: 800
- Food Distributed in the Pantry: 2,700 pounds
- Total Meals Served: 4,500

Type of Assist: February 2018
- Meals Served in the Soup Kitchen: 4,000
- Meals Served in the Pantry: 800
- Food Distributed in the Pantry: 2,700 pounds
- Total Meals Served: 4,500

Type of Assist: March 2018
- Meals Served in the Soup Kitchen: 4,000
- Meals Served in the Pantry: 800
- Food Distributed in the Pantry: 2,700 pounds
- Total Meals Served: 4,500

As these numbers reveal, the need is great and continues to increase. The assistance through the Postal Carriers Food Drive, other food drives, and donations are essential to our mission in meeting the needs of others.

I also want to commiserate with those who have lost their jobs, houses, and lives, and their children. They are not alone in their loss of loved ones. They are not alone in their struggle to start again. They are not alone in their search for hope.

As for the future, I ask that you please continue to lift our ministry in prayer. We are always looking for new ways to remain there for those who need us.
How Bright Is Your Light?
By Joyce Meyer

A few years ago, I reached a point where I was feeling weary...tired of the world around me...tired of doing the same thing all the time. I’ve been doing this a long time, and my passion and zeal for the call of God on my life was gone.

So, I prayed, “God, give me passion and zeal again for the ministry You’ve called me to do. I refuse to let myself get tired of living for You, doing what You’re leading me to do on this earth!”

I had to stir myself up and resist the temptation to give in to weariness and an apathetic attitude.

Isaiah 60:1-2 (NIV) says, “Arise, shine...for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.”

The Amplified Bible, Classic Edition, says to “arise [from the depression and prostration in which circumstances have kept you – rise to a new life]!”

Prostration means you’re lying down. When I was weary, I was lying down on the inside, in my heart. I had to “get up” and rekindle my desire for God to use me and shine His light through me in this dark world.

This was a decision I had to make for myself...and you have to do the same thing.

We can’t afford to waste our time waiting for our circumstances to change or for someone else to make us happy. As believers in Christ, we have the power of the Holy Spirit in us, and we can decide to stir ourselves up on the inside and “arise, shine” in the way we live.

I want to make this practical for you and show you two ways you can do this.

Matthew 5:16 (AMP) says, “Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good deeds and moral excellence...”

The first way is by doing good deeds. This basically means we should help someone or just be good to somebody. If you pay attention to people around you, it won’t take long for you to see something you can do to make someone else’s life better.

It could be simple, like holding the door open for someone allowing them to go before you. Or maybe you can give an encouraging note to a friend who is going through a hard time. You could now the neighbor’s yard, pay for someone’s groceries, babysit for free, give something you have to a person who needs it...the list of possibilities is endless.

The second way is to live with moral excellence. Excellence is not common in our world today, but as sons and daughters of the Most High God, we should be excellent in everything we do.

I’m not talking about being perfect; being excellent means you do the best you can at everything you do. You strive to always do what is right in God’s eyes—even when no one is looking.

For example, when you’re at work, don’t take company time to do personal business on your computer, and then when your boss comes in, make it look like you’re working. Your boss may not be watching every minute of the day, but God is.

We need to get to the point where it’s more important to us to please God in everything we do, whether others see us or not. Because God is always with us and He always sees everything we do.

The older I get, the more I realize how important it is to live for God all the time because we don’t have time to waste! Before I got really serious about my relationship with God, I wasted so many days being busy, and I didn’t get my way all the time. I was so focused on trying to get what I wanted that I wasn’t thinking about how God could use me to make a difference in this world.

It was a miserable way to live. But I discovered that helping others—walking in love in the way God intends—is the key to being truly satisfied, content, and happy.

So, I want to ask you: Are you weary, apathetic, and struggling to shine the light of God’s love? Are you tired of wasting your days being discouraged that you aren’t making progress in your relationship with God or changing in areas of your life that need to improve?

If you are, I want to provoke you to get up on the inside! Make a decision that you refuse to live this way any longer—no matter what your circumstances are, what you’ve been through, how others have hurt you or how long you’ve been struggling.

Stop waiting for God to do something and wake up to the truth that in Christ, you already have everything you need in your spirit to make a major difference in your part of the world. There is a greater purpose for your life than just getting what you want or settling for a frustrating, unfruitful existence.

“Arise, shine...for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.”

For more on this topic, order Joyce’s six-teaching CD series Celebrate Life! You can also contact us to receive our free magazine, Enjoying Everyday Life, by calling (800) 727-9673 or visiting www.joycemeyer.org.

Please note: The views and opinions expressed throughout this publication and/or websites are those of the respective authors and do not necessarily reflect those of Joyce Meyer Ministries.

Joyce Meyer is a New York Times bestselling author and founder of Joyce Meyer Ministries, Inc. She has authored more than 160 books, including Battlefield of the Mind and Overload: How to Unplug, Unwind, and Unleash Yourself from the Pressure of Stress (Babichett). She hosts the Enjoying Everyday Life radio and TV programs, which air on hundreds of stations worldwide. For more information, visit www.joycemeyer.org.

He that spares his rod hates his son: but he that loves him chasteneth him betimes. Proverbs 13:24
**Tim's Treasures**

One Soweth, and Another Reapeth

By Timothy W. Iron

Burl County

"Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields: for they are white already to harvest. And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together. And here is that saying true, One soweth, and another reapeth. I say to you that even now ye harvest no labour: other men laboured, and ye are entered into their labours." — John 4:35-38

It had been a long day at school, so I was not by choice that I sat waiting for the salesperson to work on my order at the wireless store. I tried to remain positive and tell myself that God had put me there for a purpose. At that present time, it wasn't obvious, at least not yet.

We had put off switching to a new wireless carrier for some time, but it had finally gotten to the point that we wanted to communicate as needed. We were going to have to use the service that provided the best coverage for the area in which we live and worked. The young man that waited on me was very kind and extremely courteous. As he began the process of transferring data from one device to another, we started talking about where I worked and found that we had mutual connections. It wasn't long before it became apparent, he was a believer too. In fact, after we shared some personal information, he told me that he had given his two weeks' notice just moments before I stepped foot in the door to answer his call to become a youth pastor at a nearby church.

It was then I began to feel the presence of the Holy Spirit ripple across my emotions. Suddenly, his phone rang and he had to excuse himself from our conversation.

About that time, a message appeared on my old phone where we had not yet parted over to the new service. The news was from a distant relative, one that I've never met in person. A few weeks back, I had shared with him our part of the Waldeisen ancestry and how we came to be. He seemed interested, but not beyond just wanting to hear about those ancient names. The story beyond, from whence we came didn't seem to intrigue him, at least not from my vantage point. Once I provided him the information, we only remained in content through shared "likes" on social media. However, from what I saw from his posts, his life once was drenched by pleasures of the flesh. He found his comfort at the end of a bottle, so the picture said. But the message at that moment that came to me as I sat in the cell phone store in Boone was that God had found a way to reach him.

As I read with eyes of joy, I heard a friend who had inquired about his post. "I haven't touched a drop in over a year." He then went on to say that he was regularly attending a church in his community. My heart leapt for joy, and I stood up, rejoicing out loud. The questions raced through my mind, "Did I somehow plant a seed?" "Did God use that seemingly insignificant contact years ago to begin working on my distant cousin?" Those and many more rushed through my mind as my newfound friend got off the phone smiling at my embarrassed demeanor. "I guess that was good news," he said pointing at my phone. "Oh, yes, more than I can explain," passing to gain an understanding of what had just transpired.

Then the words of Jesus came rushing in, "in all things, so matter how small, use this insignificant, God has a purpose. As I stood there in that small store, I had found another soul that had recently taken another leap of faith. As we talked, the thought of another time and place when my just being somewhere was God using me, and again, it felt the same. Yet, now as I stood there another soul had found something greater than that which is in the world.

With each tiny seed we plant, we may wait hours, days, but it is God that will bring the crop to fruition. It is not as that will change that being. It is not our doing that will cause another to turn to Christ; it is God, and God alone.

In all that we do, there is a purpose.

Last Saturday, as we sat watching the Western Piedmont Community College graduates ascend the short stairway to the stage, the feeling of a proud parent swelled our chests. In what seemed like yesterday, I was helping cut in my area for the first time, watching the helpless lifeforce, totally dependent upon her mother and father to survive. Our son now stood in his graduation regalia receiving his diploma, then leaving the stage, returning to his seat. His independence is a culmination of 15 years of love, care, and patience. What God has given to us, we have taken that responsibility and nurtured him into adulthood. "For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required," reads Luke 12:48. And so with eyes brimming with moisture, we know that soon he will leave us. It is only natural.

We had planted the seed. It is up to him to continue to allow it to grow. But the seed has begun to ripen much earlier.

For those many years of his life, we have taught him how to live in faith. At the tender age of 10 years, he found Christ. His salvation came in a little model church at the Denton Bluegrass Festival. Every year, our family, brother Dale Tilley, and those who wanted to attend, a church service at the close of his festival. One of his good friends, brother Dale Tilley, would often be the preacher. And so, it was this Mother's Day weekend when we sat in the row just behind Doyle's band, that we heard brother Tilley bring another spirited version to a weary group of bluegrass listeners. After Brother Dale Tilley had nearly finished his alar call, my weekend was just about to get even better. Without any idea what was about to happen, my boy leaned over to me and whispered the words into my ear that I will never forget, "I want to be saved."

My heart leapt for joy.

Upon his request to wait until everyone had left. I motioned to brother Tilley that we needed to talk, and everyone ushered themselves out, the door closed, and we were alone in faith. Brother Tilley directed us through the process as we knelt in prayer and supplication. There on that ancient wooden floor of the little white clapboard country church, my son spoke the words and prayed the prayer to ask Christ to come into his life. With tears in my eyes, we stood up to leave. It was just brother Tilley, my son and me. As we reached the back doors of the church, we opened them to find that we were not alone. There under a clear, blue Carolina sky stood Doyle Lawson and his entire band. The entire entourage was still standing in a row on the steps of the church; they had paused from their busy schedule, waiting to celebrate my son's decision.

The tears ran down my cheeks as I watched entertainers turned Christians welcome one another into their fold.

It is a day I will never forget.

The seed had been planted, but another ripened the harvest, but we rejoiced together.

God has a purpose in everything we do. What will become of the young man at the cell phone store? I may never know, but it really doesn't matter. God knows.

One day, when we reach that far distant shore, there will be a welcoming into the fold. We'll find the angels of the Lord standing in a row, placing for each of us, ushering into those heavenly gates. On that day, the answers to the questions we never knew will become obvious.

What a day it will be. Thanks be to God.
Dear Dave,

My husband has an old car that has become a real sticking point between us. He bought it for $2,900, and it needs about $4,000 in repairs and restoration. Together, we bring home $50,000 a year, and I feel like this car is interfering with our ability to save money and pay off $35,000 in debt. We already have two decent cars we drive to work, so what should I do about this?
Stacy

Dear Stacy,

There are lots of guys out there who like shiny toys — especially cars. I get it, because I'm one of them. But those kinds of things are luxuries, and stuff like this should wait until the household and finances are in order. The family should always come first.

Dumping money into this while you two are struggling financially doesn't make sense. On top of that, it's causing problems between you two on a deeper level. I'm sure your husband isn't a bad guy, so try sitting down with him and explaining how it makes you feel. Let him know what it's doing to your finances and your marriage. You might even write the financial side down, so he can see exactly what kind of shape you two are in and where the money is going.

Once you do this in a kind, but concerned, manner, it may be a real eye-opener for him. On top of that, you might consider giving him a little incentive to get on board with the idea of getting your finances in order. Suggest that once the debt is gone, and you've got some savings in place, there might be a little extra cash on hand to help get that car up and running.

Good luck, Stacy!
-Dave

Dear Dave,

My fiancé and I are planning to be married is less than a year. We've both been through your class at church, and the other night we started wondering if we should wait to have the wedding until we're both completely debt-free. Would you give us your opinion?
Michelle

Dear Michelle,

Congratulations! I hope you two will have long and happy lives together.
To answer your question, I don't think there's a reason to wait. When two people know they really love each other, they should get married whenever they feel in their hearts the time is right.
At this point, you shouldn't be thinking about money as anything except an indicator of where you're going. It doesn't matter who got into debt or how, because everyone makes mistakes. But if you're both serious about getting out of debt, living on less than you make, and are in agreement about how the dollars are going to be handled, then — where money is concerned — you're ready to be married.
Many relationship experts say if a
ACROSS
1 Everyone who sins breaches the law; in __ sin is lawlessness (I Jn 3:4)
5 John to the seven churches which are in __ (Rev 1:4)
9 and keep some ___ between the herd (Gen 32:16)
11 the merchant ships, bringing her food from ___ (Prov 3:14)
13 but envy the bones (Prov 14:30)
16 a certain ___ named Martha received (Luke 10:38)
17 Balaam for reward, and per-__ed the messenger of ___ (Jud 11:19) KJV
18 twenty he-goats, two hundred ___ and twenty rams (Gen 32:14)
21 take thee _____, and lay it before thee (1,4) (Ezek 4:1) KJV
23 King ____ issued an order to all Judah no one was ___ (1 Kings 15:22)
24 pursued them all the way to _____, to Mizpah ____ (Josh 11:8)
25 abbr. for the ninth book of the Old Testament
27 that at the name of Jesus every knee should ___ (Phil 2:10)
29 David sent a delegation to express his ___ to Hanan (1 Chron 19:2)
31 was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on ___ (1,6) (Matt 4:38) KJV
32 whether it be ox, or ___ or sheep, he shall restore double. (Exod 22:4)
33 you became ___ to all the believers in Macedonia (1 Thess 1:7)
34 with dishonest scales, with ___ of false weights (1,3) (Mic 6:11)
36 THIS IS JESUS, THE ___ OF THE WORLD (Matt 27:57)
38 laying aside malice, and all guile, and hypocrisy (1 Pet 2:1)
41 Some of the Levites were ___ and doorkeepers (2 Chron 34:13)
43 Praise him, ___ and moon, and all you shining stars (Ps 148:3)
46 Then will the lame leap like a ____ (Isa 35:6)
48 ___ a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel (Luke 2:36)
49 we found out that the island was called ___ (Acts 28:11)
50 Their feet that handled the ___, the mariners (Acts 27:29) KJV
53 whether in the ____ depths or in the highest heights (Esa 37:11)
55 The LORD is my ___ and my song (Ps 118:14)
56 The trees of the ___ are full of graces (Ps 104:16)
57 Jesus came from Galilee to ___ to be baptized by John (Matt 3:13)
58 ___ in the LORD and do good (Ps 37:3)

DOWN
1 his ____ was like the sun, and his legs were like ____ pillars (Rev 10:1)
2 if ____ go up, he shall even break down their (1,3) (1Kgs 3:4) KJV
3 brought him to an inn, and took ____ of him (Luke 10:34)
4 Your walls will ___, at the noise of the way horses (Ezek 26:16)
5 Also there ___ olive trees by it (3,3) (Zech 4:3)
6 Consider the ravens: They do ___ or reap (Luke 12:24)
7 unity, parts, points
8 If we will ____ communion with thee, with thee begraiven? (Job 4:3) KJV
9 the ____ and marrows shall not become flesh (Ezek 47:11)
10 the ____ to be scored and washed with water (Lev 6:26)
11 You are ___ that appears for a little while (1,4) (James 5:14)
12 he went to Assyria, where he built Niniveh, Rehoboam ____ (Gen 10:11)
13 I will be ___ unto thine enemies (Exod 25:22)
21 they were counted by number of names by their ____ (1 Chron 23:24) KJV
23 Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven ____ (Exodus 20:4)
27 ____ , and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find (Matt 7:7)
28 As ___ man who casteth firebrands (13) (Prov 26:18) KJV
29 Do not set up any wooden Asherah beside the altar you (Deut 16:21)
30 keep away from every brother who is ___ and does not (2 Thess 3:6)
31 ___ them before God against quarreling (2 Tim 2:19)
35 The ____ of thou was not read up (King 17:16) NJK
36 ___ tooth or a lane (1,3) (Prov 25:19)
38 was in the ___ that is called Patmos (Rev 1:9)
39 a little honey, spices, and myrrh, ___ and almonds (Gen 43:11)
40 You strain out a ____ but swallow a came (Matt 23:24)
41 they began to throw the ____ oversboard (Acts 27:10)
42 you, however, ___, me with lies (Job 13:4)
44 the deer, the gazelle, the ___ the wild goat (Deut 14:5)
45 wrath is a messenger of death, but a wise man will ___ it (Prov 16:14)
46 The two ___ arrived at Sodom in the evening (Gen 19:1)
48 together with her royal ____ and her father (11A 6)
49 you will go out and leap like calves released from the ___ (Mal 4:2)
56 Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in ___ days. (John 2:19)
57 a King who will ___ wisely and do what is just (Jer 23:5)

Solution on page 14
Freedom Teacher Amy Howell Named Burke’s Teacher of the Year
By Cheryl Shuffler
Burke County

Amy Howell, a health science nursing fundamentals teacher at Freedom High School, has been named the Burke County Public Schools 2018 Teacher of the Year. Howell is in her 12th year of teaching and her 10th at Freedom High School.

Howell started her career as a nurse and then found teaching to be her passion. Watching her mom die of cancer when she was 15 led Howell into the nursing field, so she could care for others. As a junior in high school, Howell was interested in health science classes, but had a teacher tell her she would never achieve her educational goals. She did not let her discourage her. Before she graduated from high school, Howell became a CNA. EMT and paramedic and then went on to become a registered nurse.

“Honestly, I knew I would obtain an education somehow, and I would not allow that teacher to dictate my failure to do so,” she said.

As a Career and Technical Education (CTE) teacher, Howell’s students can follow her path and become Certified Nursing Assistants while in high school and then go on to work in the healthcare field or continue in a community college or university nursing program. Howell said, “I feel this opportunity is invaluable to the needs of the students and their family members.”

Howell and her four siblings were raised by a single mom before her mom’s death. She said she knows what it is like to be hungry and struggle for food and empathizes with her students who are going through similar situations. She said, “I chose teaching after nine years of perfecting my nursing skills of direct patient care so that I could extend that knowledge to my students in both the classroom and clinical setting. I know I can inspire and empower students, just from my personal experience. I want to challenge my students to make positive life and educational choices no matter the situation they may be faced with.”

Howell said her teaching philosophy is to lead by positive example. She said, “I believe that this is key to gaining the respect of my students that I strive for on a daily basis while interacting with them. I instill the value of respect and moral decision making and use every possible moment as a teaching moment.

Each student is an individual to me. I see the good the bad and all that is between. I give each student the same opportunity regardless of circumstances, involvement, capacity, background or history. I feel as an educator I must recognize the strengths and weaknesses and build upon each of those.”

MORE
Burke County Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Larry Putnam, Debbie Jennings, the director of Secondary Education and CTE for Burke County Public Schools, and Freedom High School Principal Felicia Simmons, who is this year’s BCPS Principal of the Year, surprised Howell with the announcement on Monday. Simmons then informed the school over the intercom of the honor and had Howell walk through the cafeteria, where students and staff cheered for her and doled out congratulatory hugs.

Jennings said of Howell, “Her passion for her students is very evident. She is a great role model and loved by students, parents and the community.”

Larry Putnam said, “Congratulations to Ms. Howell on being named BCPS Teacher of the Year. She was nominated by her peers at Freedom High School, where she excels at her love for her students as well as how her students respond to her instruction.”

Howell has a Bachelor of Science in nursing from the University of North Carolina-Greensboro and, in addition to teaching at Freedom, works as a nursing assistant instructor for Western Piedmont Community College and serves as a PRN staff nurse for Carolinas HealthCare System Blue Ridge. She is a member of Health Occupations Students of America and Sigma Theta Tau. Howell’s previous work experience includes patient and staff education development at Broughton Hospital and as an RN supervisor at Western Piedmont Heart Center.

Howell is a teacher leader through her involvement as a nursing advisor; participates in the Burke County Public Schools Teacher Leaders Forum; is a CPR instructor through the American Heart Association; is the Burke County Lymphoma Health Care Education; is a member of the Freedom High School Leadership Team; and is a presenter at annual CTE Summer Conferences.

Howell was Freedom High School’s teacher of the year in 2013 and received recognition for outstanding first year teacher in 2008. She also helped Freedom obtain in-facility test site recognition for the state CNA exam.

Each student in the district selected a teacher of the year. The school-level recipients completed a written portfolio and submitted videos in which they talked about teacher leadership, student-centered classrooms, accountability and their platform as teacher of the year. A committee reviewed the portfolios and videos and selected finalists for an interview.

Putnam said, “The selection committee had a tough job in choosing our teacher of the year. We have passionate and creative teachers throughout our district and that was evident in their essays and their videos. Congratulations to all of our school-level teachers of the year. You are the best of the best.”

And From the Chamber:
The Board of Education will recognize Howell and all school-level teachers of the year at the May 7 Board of Education meeting. Howell is now eligible for the regional teacher of the year.

The Burke County Board of Education recently recognized 2018 Teacher of the Year Amy Howell and surprised her with the keys to a new vehicle. The 2018 Compass Sport is Howell’s drive during her reign as teacher of the year. It is part of a possible through Burke County Public School’s partnership with John Green Chrysler Dodge Jeep, a Chamber member.

Board Chair Randy Burns said, “The Board County Board of Education appreciates the support of the Greens family and John Green Chrysler Dodge Jeep that has been a part of this community for 77 years.”

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

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The Market on Oak Announces Book Launch & Signing with Local Author Janie DeVos

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The Rising of Gloryland!

Janie DeVos

Join Us
June 23rd 1-4 pm at
262 Oak Avenue Downtown Spruce Pine
**A Caring Partner at Home**

When Florence was unable to live independently, her daughter Marcia became her round-the-clock caregiver. When her medical needs became too much for one person to handle, the compassionate team at CarePartners Hospice ensured that both Florence and Marcy’s physical, social and spiritual needs were being met.

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**Bee Log Mural**

By Kate Groff
Tazewell County

Students from Bee Log Elementary remember their school with a mural. Bee Log students hold a paper sky with colored sun rays beamind memories of field days, talent shows, pepster shows, quilt-making with Wendy Collins, yoga with Cherri L,e, passport photos with Preet Happer, science museum and the trip to Washington DC, the Wilmington trip, to Pigeon Forge Aquaplanic and the Great Smoky National Park.

The school was made by printing students with student-stamped letters, doors, and windows. Artist Cassie Finemore photographed the students on the playground, then drew in the background before creating the painting tape photo transfers.

“I wased the student to process their thoughts and feelings about their school closing. By looking back and sitting through their memories they learned about the brain and how we store memories, the importance of building them, and how we can put those memories into a visual representation making them last.”

The mural will be up at Bee Log Elementary School until June 8. Plans are being made to find a permanent location where everyone can share the remembrances.

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**Dancing Azaleas**

The slightest breeze lifts the petals...inviting the into a delight dance.

I am captivated by nature’s elegance, hues, gracefulness, and charm.

Nature is infused with our Creator’s essence.

And when we know Him, we, too, share in the beauty of His divine nature.

“...you may be partakers of the divine nature...”

2 Peter 1: 4, NKJV

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**Pause...and Consider**

**A Stunning Gasp!**

Ken and Jan Metrop
Avery County

She danced...twirling and twirling as though no one was watching.

But I was watching.

I was mesmerized. I gasped at her freedom in the dance as the musicians played a worship song to the Lord. Her beautiful red hair blew around her face. She couldn’t have been more than three or four years old. I wondered if she would become shy and stop if she saw me watching. However, when she spotted me, she smiled and returned to the wonder of her dance of worship.

This was abandon pure and simple...transported to another realiva where she responded with her free-spirited dance.

Prior to this experience, I had been introduced to the word Zoe...a Greek word that means life...abundant life as described in the Scriptures. This life is infused by God’s eternal life, an outworking reality beyond our making.

2 Peter 1: 1 & 4, NKJV says, “The divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature...”

Partakers of the divine nature. Let that sink in. Then don’t be surprised if your hands fly to your face, cover your mouth and release a stunned gape of incredibility.

Imagine. This Zoe life is in me as a gift of God when he saved me. I can partake of his holy nature. What should my response to him be?

The following verses show what that should look like. Supplement our faith with virtue (or moral excellence) and continue with knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness and love. To our Lord, this response will be a beautiful fragrance and dance before him.

By knowing Him more fully through abiding in His word and keeping company with Him in prayer, our lives will be an expression of His life in us...abandoned whether anyone is looking or not, because we always have an audience of One.

And so, back to our little dancer. She continued to flow from one side of the church to the other as the music played. Later, I shared with her Dad how much her worship had meant to me...how it kept me rooted to my spot so I wouldn’t miss a moment.

And then I learned her name. Zoe.

God had shown me a beautiful illustration of a truth newly discovered in the innocent abandon of a child. A stunning gape left my lips. Gelah.

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**Check out our new Website**

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And find us on Facebook
Historic Gold in Blue Ridge
Outdoors Magazine's Top Adventure

By Nina Mastandrea
Avery County

In a historic finish, Lees-McRae College becomes Blue Ridge Outdoor Magazine's Top Adventure College. BANNER ELK, N.C. — On Friday, May 4, Lees-McRae took historic gold in Blue Ridge Outdoor Magazine's Top Adventure College competition becoming the first "small school" to win the overall title.

Week by week, Lees-McRae bear our school after school ultimately proving the College, and its surroundings, are some of the best in the region.

The annual contest, presented by Blue Ridge Outdoors Magazine, posed colleges across the Southeast and Mid-Atlantic regions in a weekly bracket head-to-head competition. One-half of the bracket featured "large schools" or schools with more than 5,000 enrolled students with the other half including "small schools" or schools with less than 5,000 enrolled students.

Before taking the ultimate title of Top Adventure College, Lees-McRae took the title of best "small school."

Boosting miles of trails, campgrounds and picturesque locations to set up a hammock, Lees-McRae offers endless ways to explore and enjoy the outdoors.

Many of the academic offerings at Lees-McRae center around the outdoors and the lessons it can teach. Some of those programs include Outdoor Recreation Management, Cycling Studies, and Wildlife Biology.

Outdoor Recreation Management professor Kate Wall said that the competition, though fierce, brought the Lees-McRae and High Country communities together in a way she did not expect.

"Students, faculty, staff, alumni, families, friends from other colleges and more came together to support Lees-McRae. This was truly a group effort and we owe a huge thanks to everyone that supported us through this competition," Wall said.

"Though Lees-McRae may be small, we are mighty, and we have shown that today!"

Nestled in the Blue Ridge Mountains of western North Carolina, Lees-McRae College is a private, four-year college offering diverse baccalaureate degrees, strong athletic programs, and outstanding faculty. Field-specific career preparation and hands-on learning enhance the broad core curriculum. For more information, please visit www.lmc.edu or call 828.898.3241.

Nina Mastandrea is the content manager of Lees-McRae College.

Information Hubs Arrive

By Kate Groff
Mitchell and Yancey County

A few years ago, 18 representatives from local arts organizations, schools, government agencies, and interested individuals got together and determined that the time was right to collaboratively recognize the arts as an economic driver in our two-county area. Subsequently, business owners, community members, government officials, and hundreds of artists were interviewed, their comments evaluated, and strategies formed. Toe River Arts, who spearheaded the initiative, wrote and received several grants, and during the past two years, our community has begun to see their efforts come to fruition.

Last summer, our new logo and strap line were unveiled just before the June Studio Tour. Following that, dozens of artist signs began to pop up around Mitchell and Yancey counties. To date, 65 permanent signs have been installed, and 10 more are on the way. Town signage that will bookend the entrance to the Toe River Arts region are in the works for Bakersville, Burnsville, and Spruce Pine and will complement their already existing town markers.

And a few weeks ago, the last of the six information hubs came alive, and now all are offering visitors an interactive view of the artists in our area with access to their contact information and google map location. Also, the map indicates local eateries and lodging. Located at each of the Toe River Arts Galleries (Burnsville and Spruce Pine), Mica Gallery in Bakersville, OOA Gallery in Micaville, Penland Gallery, and the Mineral and Gem Museum on 2165, just north of the Blue Ridge Parkway in Spruce Pine, the information hub implementation utilized as much local art as possible. The aluminum for the hub base was donated by a local manufacturer, and powdered coated was provided by Hensel in Bakersville.

The furniture maker, John Clark, designed, built, and installed the hubs. iPad interface was made possible through the research and assistance of Steve Buettermann in Burnsville.

And none of this would have been possible without finding from the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area, National Endowment for the Arts, U.S. Economic Development Administration, Community Foundation of Western North Carolina, and John and Robyn Horn Foundation, Blumenthal Foundation, and from a generous donation from an anonymous local organization. "This has been and continues to be a community-wide effort to recognize the arts as a catalyst in our thriving area," offered Kate Groff, Toe River Arts Marketing/Programs Manager. The strap line for Toe River Arts—Journey of the Arts, Art of the Journey—describes what makes our region a destination. Whether one is looking to hike, bike, take a ride up or down the Toe River, have a bite to eat at a local eatery that has been serving Southern fare for decades, or meander down those flanked blue highways and grave roads to find that perfect piece of art, Mitchell and Yancey counties is a journey worth taking. The information hubs are just one more part of the branding plan for our region. For more information about Toe River Arts, the information hubs or any of their other activities and programs, please call 828-682-7215, or visit the website, toeriverarts.org. To discover what’s happening in our area in the arts, visit toeriverarts.com.

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

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H.O. Hirt, ERIE Founder

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Neuropathy

Do You Suffer From:

• Numbness or burning in feet or hands
• Sharp electric like pains
• Pain on walking
• Difficult sleeping due to pain
• Prickling or tingling in feet or hands
• Balance problems

You may have Neuropathy.

Pharmaceutical treatment for neuropathy has not proven to be effective in the long term. Our office has had excellent results in the reduction and elimination of symptoms by using a multi-therapeutic approach including low level laser therapy, spine care and nutrition.

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Morganton Seventh-Day Adventist Church

Have You Noticed?
By Rick and Cindy Merzer

"If you were arrested for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you?" This was the sobering statement that a highly respected colleague made to me one day while we were engaged in a serious conversation about spiritual matters. He wasn't talking to me directly (although the statement forever burned in my mind); he was simply making a general statement. It was a well-timed point. I have pondered over this statement more times than you can even imagine.

So, what exactly was my friend saying? Was he being critical or judgmental? Or was he just making small talk? I simply think he was making a very serious statement that definitely caused me to analyze whether or not my Christian witness was effective or for that matter even noticeable? Yes, noticeable. I remember thinking, "Does my family notice that I claim to be a Christian?" What about my co-workers, my church members? Oh, and what about the clerk at the grocery store or my children's teachers and the list startedreeling in my mind? How were people reconciling the fact that with my lips I professed that I was a follower of Christ versus my actions (that aren't always Christlike) or even my silence in certain situations?

I know we all make mistakes. And that is why I am so thankful for the beautiful gift of forgiveness that Jesus so freely offers when we aren't reflecting Him or we are not being a "noticeable Christian." The fact is there should be no mistaking a life transformed by God! The disciples had been vain and fearful when Jesus enlisted them. James and John sought to outmaneuver their fellow disciples in order to gain the places of greatest honor next to Jesus (Mark 10:37). Over and over the disciples' actions showed that they did not truly understand who Jesus was (John 6:7-9; Mark 6:49). Even after three years with Jesus, Peter was afraid to confess Christ before a young servant girl (Matt. 26:60-75). Anyone who knew these men would realize they were not the kind of people on which you build a worldwide kingdom. Yet something happened to them as they were with Jesus. The Holy Spirit transformed them, giving them new boldness and wisdom. Now they could perform miracles and preach fearlessly and persuasively to multitudes. Even their enemies noticed in their changed lives the same power they had witnessed in Jesus. It is a wonderful thing when the Holy Spirit works in our lives too!

Sometimes, we desperately want others to believe that we have changed, that we are closer to God, more devoted and more Spirit-controlled. But we shouldn't have to convince others of the difference. When we have truly been transformed by Christ the change will be obvious. Most likely, if we have to prove to someone that God has changed us, then He has probably not. The people around you like your family, friends, co-workers and such will surely notice when your life has been transformed by a powerful relationship with Jesus! As a matter of fact, they generally are the first ones to notice.

The truth is, when we make the commitment to spend more time in His word, be zealous about prayer and make the sacrifice to witness and spread the good news... the automatic fruit will be a transformed life for Jesus! And your life will never be the same. It will be a noticeable difference!

"Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they was amazed. And they realized that they had been with Jesus." Acts 4:13 NKJV

Rick Mercer is the pastor of the Morganton Seventh-Day Adventist Church at 2187 Jamestown Road, Morganton. They can be reached at 828-467-1113 or cmercer@ymail.com. Check out www.morgantonad.org. Their passion is to share the love of Jesus with all who will listen.

Sudoku

Solution on page 14

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Youth to Youth Leadership Summit
Contact: Jeff Spargo
Mitchell and Yancey Countian

Appalachian Youth to Youth Attends Youth Leadership Summit
Buncombe, NC (5/12) - On Saturday April 21st, staff and kids from Appalachian Youth to Youth along with Patrice Burham of 4R Mountain Kids headed to Hickory, NC to attend a Youth Leadership Summit hosted by the NC Attorney General, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust. Youth coalitions from all over the state were present to address and help solve the issue of drug misuse.

The summit was upbeat and engaging for youth, but also had a serious message. A captivating video about four teens who have battled addiction and why they decided to begin using was shown during the summit. The reasons why they began ranged from “just curious” to “I saw my parents do it.” In addition to the video, Youth to Youth members took part in activities and discussions. Hunter Hall, a student at East Yancey Middle School said, “This (the summit) is amazing! It’s just so cool that there are so many kids that know this situation is going on.”

At the end of the summit, each youth coalition worked on an action plan to take back to their communities which addresses the issues of opioid misuse. Local youth developed a plan to use multiple social media outlets to get the message out about the dangers of opioid misuse. They plan to “sharoph” this message at least 1,000 times with the hashtag #leadac and #appalachianyouth2youth.

To learn more, support our work, or get involved as a volunteer, contact PATH at (828) 682-7899, info@pathwnc.org, or www.pathwnc.org. For questions specific to Appalachian Youth to Youth, contact Terri Leissner at terri@pathwnc.org.

Jeff Spargo is the Director of the Mitchell / Yancey Drug Abuse Task Force.

Bridge42 Church
Forgotten Gospel
By Jason Koon
Burke County

This is the second article in a series on central truths of the gospel that are slowly becoming endangered in today’s Church culture.

The King
Well-known evangelist, Paul Washer tells the story of a time he was invited to speak at a Church after asking the Pastor what we should speak on. He was told that it was up to him, and when he asked a second time he was told, “just preach on God.” Washer wasn’t satisfied with this answer and replied by saying, “you don’t want me to do that, because if I preach the God Scripture describes, most American Christians will get up, walk out, and say that’s not the God I believe in.”

Washer tends to oversrate things to make a point, but the basic idea is true. The average American Church-goer’s view of God is probably not as biblical as they think it is. Add to this the fact that our contemporary gospel preaching seems increasingly devoid of truth about Who God is, and I think we may have a problem. Think about where we usually start, “God has a wonderful plan for your life” or if we’re really old school, we might even start off with, “did you know that all of us are sinners?” But how often do we hear gospel presentations start off with the person and work of Jesus? How often do we start off with the cross or the empty tomb? Once in a while we might hear that, but the Bible goes back even further. The message of Scripture, at its core, is a message of who God is. This means that this question, “who is God?” is the most critical question that any Gospel presentation must address.

God is Holy – Imagine starting with, “do you know our universe is ruled by an all-powerful, Holy God, whom you fought against for your entire life and who will one day return and judge the earth, destroying everyone and everything who persists in rebellion against Him?” I don’t know how well that would fly in our world today, and maybe I’m overstating my case a little bit, but God is Holy. He is not like us, and He is not a warm fuzzy, grandfatherly, teetober in the sky. The Bible says He is a warrior, a consuming fire, a conquering King, and a perfect judge. God is not someone to play games with.

God is a Judge – God has a perfect standard of right and wrong, and He doesn’t grade on a sliding scale. There is God-like righteousness, and then there is unrighteousness: worthy of his wrath. There’s no in-between. And unlike us, God is perfectly right and qualified to judge because this is His world and we are His creatures. Which means He has the right to how we live.

God is Merciful – And yes, just when we get to the point where most of us are saying, “I don’t think I want to read this anymore – honestly, I’m about to the point where I don’t want to write this anymore – God is merciful, and He is kind. All this makes the kindness of God, as revealed through the sacrifice of Jesus so much more powerful. This is where the idea that God has a plan for my life should be shockingly good news. God has a plan for my life, me, the sinner, rebellious, hateful, deserving of death, and yet Jesus is willing to give up His life for me. This is good news. This is the God we serve, kind and just to those of us who deserve nothing from him.

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

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NOT Like the World
By Shaws Thomas
Burke County

"You shall not do what is done in the land of Egypt where you lived, nor are you to do what is done in the land of Canaan where I am bringing you; shall not walk in their statutes." (Leviticus 18:3)

This is SO applicable to Christians today. People are always saying things like, “we need to be like the world; we need to entertain like the world, be business like the world,” and so on. But God says NO!! “You shall NOT do what is done in the land . . .” He says His goal for His people is NOT to be like the world! They are to follow His word instead. He says in 4, “You are to perform My judgments and keep My statutes, to live in accord with them; I am YHWH your God.”

Sadly, too many in the church are doing the opposite, using the world’s standards as their model and guide, for worship, for business, finances, relationships, ministry, morals, etc. But this is a tragic mistake. God says we are NOT to be like them. “You shall NOT do what is done” by them.

Last we think this is an “Old Testament” concept only, Jesus echoed this same warning in the New Testament. In Matthew 23. He told His disciples: “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. It is not this way among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant . . .”. Just like His Father in Leviticus. Jesus points His disciples to “the way of the world” and then says, “it is NOT this way among you.”

Again, Jesus is declaring that His followers are to be different. They are not to do things the way the rest of the world does. The question for those of us who consider ourselves to be His followers is: ARE we indeed different? Or are we just “doing what is done” in the land around us?

Shaws Thomas is Senior Pastor at Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church in Morganton. His messages and devotional are available at www.shawnsThomas.com

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the program. While the program is underpinned by Biblical values and unapologetically reflects a Christian worldview, there is also a clearly defined inclusion policy for all.

Accordingly, all boys are welcome irrespective of race, religion, national origin or socio-economic status. Our goal is for parents and families of every faith to be able to place their boys in a youth program that endeavors to provide moral, cultural, and ethical integrity in its adult leaders. Charter partners own and operate local groups, selecting leaders and admiring members as they deem beneficial to their group and within the parameters of the national policy. The basis for the program’s ethical and moral standards is found in the Bible. To terms of sexual identification and behavior, we affirm that any sexual activity outside the context of the marriage of one man and one woman is sinful before God and therefore inconsistent with the values and principles of the program. Within these limits, we grant membership to adults and youth who do not engage in or promote sexual immorality of any kind, or engage in behavior that would become a distraction or disruption of the program. We welcome boys whose parents are seeking a faith-based outdoor adventure program that places an emphasis on character development, leadership, and moral purity, and who aspire to live in accordance with the values expressed in the program’s Oath and Creed.

Values: CHRIST-CENTERED

Trail Life USA (TJUSA) is a Christian outdoor adventure program that emphasizes and teaches biblical moral values and requires all adult members to agree with, sign, and abide by the Trail Life USA Statement of Faith and the mission of the program. The program is unapologetically Christian. However, the program is designed and intended to be without being “churchy” or “religious” focusing on outdoor adventure, character, and leadership development. The analogy for this principle has been referred to as “carrot cake.” The carrots in the cake are not in big and obvious chunks, but are still present throughout the entire cake. Similarly, this is our approach to how we do the program.

At the same time, the TJUSA program is not intended to replace or compete with other youth groups, Bible studies, or church programs, but rather to complement them and give youth an opportunity to exemplify and demonstrate Christian values in their relationships with others.

CHURCH-OWNED AND OPERATED

The Charter Organizations (most commonly churches) in the TJUSA program do not merely allow the organization to use space to meet in their building. The Charter Organization is expected to own and operate the Troop by selecting its adult leaders, integrating the Troop into the life of the church, and involving the boys in mission trips, service projects, and other religious or ceremonial purposes. Each Charter Organization influences its Troop differently, and is encouraged to take ownership of the Troop as an active part of its ministry offerings to the members of the church’s youth community or the community at large.

OUTDOOR-FOCUSED

We believe there is something special about being in the outdoors. This enables our program to instill: Adventure, Character, and Leadership traits in boys and young men. Camp, hiking, and other outdoor activities help build deep relationships and provide a special context for leadership, problem solving, conflict resolution, and character building. We also value the outdoor focus of our program as a unique means of helping a boy see and appreciate the wonder of creation and grandeur of God as reflected in His creation.

SAFETY

Trail Life USA is committed to the health, welfare, and safety of our youth, volunteers, staff, and employees. Physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual health are integrated into everything we do to ensure safe and productive environments. The goal is to provide a safe and enjoyable environment for the boys, and we train our adult leaders to be able to respond responsibly to any situation that may arise and to ensure that boys and adults are safe and protected. We offer a variety of training resources to help leaders ensure the safety of all participants.

The moral and values of our country are deteriorating at an exponential rate and are becoming increasingly opposed to true Christian values. As our organization grows and matures, future challenges will require increased character and courage by both adult and youth members as they stand for the timeless principles articulated in the TJUSA Statement of Faith and Statement of Values which emanate from the Holy Scripture and the teachings of the Church. With this cultural pressure in mind, the TJUSA program will continue to teach boys the moral principles from the Bible that we need to pass on to the next generation of leaders.

MALE-CENTERED ADULT LEADERSHIP

TJUSA is a program focused on nurturing boys into godly men. Our firm conviction is that God cannot be done by allowing a boy the opportunity to interact, work with, and be mentored by and with other Christian men. All direct contact positions, other than in the Woodlands Trail program for younger boys 5-10 years old, must be filled by men.

TJUSA serves in a number of roles in the organization including the National Board of Directors, National Advisory Board, Regional Leadership, Area Leadership, Troop Committee members, the TJUSA Organization Representative (COR), and in the Woodlands Trail program.

VOLUNTEER-DRIVEN

TJUSA will be operated and supported by volunteers at all levels of Troop. Troops connect with one another locally, and leaders are strongly encouraged to solve each other’s problems at the local level to ensure effective communication, interactive discussion, sharing best practices, and the like. Area Teams of experienced volunteers, possessing expertise in Advancement, Activities, Community Service, Marketing, and much more, stand ready to help. Direct Service Advisors are appointed by the Area Team to coach and mentor Troop leaders.

Areas report to Regional volunteer committees, and Regions to the professional staff. As a result — and by design — House Office staff will be kept to a minimum. This is not only good stewardship but allows the members of the organization to take full ownership of and investment in the program.

PROGRAM FLEXIBILITY

The flexibility principle behind our program elements allows local Troops to adapt the program to fit the needs of their unit. A good example would be running only a Woodlands Trail and Adventurer program but not a Navigator program because of a lack of boys in a Troop or a lack of adult leaders. There will be some elements of the program which are universal and mandatory, but many parts of the way the program is delivered can be customized to fit the immediate needs of the local Troop and Charter Organization.

SHARED LEADERSHIP

Leadership seeks to involve others in the process and not be more “lord” over the authority and public nature of leadership. While we recognize the importance of leadership and all those holding positions, examples of leadership might look like occasionally allowing others adult leaders to share in doing the Troopmaster’s minutiae, delegating responsibilities, imposing limits for Committee Chairmen, or having adult and youth Chaplains recruiting others to pray every now and then.

YOUTH-CENTERED LEADERSHIP

The youth should be leading other youth. Our firm conviction is that the only way a young man is going to learn the art of true Christian leadership is to allow him to lead, to lead, and even to make mistakes. There is a constant temptation by adult leaders to step in and instruct the boys in weekly meetings, at camps, and in other events to show the boys how things should be done “right,” “better,” or “smart.” While adults can and should advise, counsel, make suggestions to youth leaders, and provide oversight to those young men designated as leaders, youth should be allowed to plan, organize, make decisions, and be the primary leaders.

CHARACTER-FOCUSED, NOT AWARDS-FOCUSED

Some boys’ programs are very focused on helping the boy achieve as many awards as he can in the shortest period of time to achieve the highest rankings and awards the program has to offer. In contrast, TJUSA is more concerned with building character than with earning badges and ranks. While TJUSA has a robust and prominent ranking and awards structure, this will not be the focus of the program. The focus should always be on building character over merely earning awards. This value is reflected by the fact that a young man cannot simply earn the Freedom Award quickly in a couple of years; he must stay in the program over an extended period of time — demonstrating maturity and leadership — to earn the highest award in the program.

SEVERN LEADERSHIP

An example would be the case in every location, ideally the goal here would be to create a “family-centered” youth-enrichment experience where, on one night, in one location, boys and their dads can participate in Trail Life USA, and girls and their moms can be involved with American Heritage Girls. There are many obvious benefits of the various programs and who are able to experience it will discover lasting impact and accelerated spiritual growth for every member of the family.

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