BLUE RIDGE CHRISTIAN NEWS

Celebrate Your Recovery



My Testimony- Haley Johnson

By Kiesa Kay

"Remember how the LORD your God led you all the way in the wilderness these forty years, to humble and test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands." Deuteronomy 8:2 (NIV)

Haley Johnson has been humbled and put to the test.

She feels that the Lord has led her from the wilderness of substance abuse and sorrow, through her darkest hours of sin and despair into a new beginning, and she's pledged her life to

and despair into a new beginning, and she's pledged her life to following Him and helping others.

"I thank God I have no desire for drugs and alcohol to this day," Haley said.

"No amount of clothes, or television, or men, or money, or drugs could fill that hole in my heart. I needed God."

Haley does presentations for community groups now, so that others can learn from her struggles and gain strength from faith in the Lord. When she spoke at First Baptist Church in Burnsville this September, Sheriff Gary Banks introduced her and praised her for her recovery. He encouraged others to transform suffering the way Haley does.

"Go forward," he said. "Be there. Be that person for someone else in need."

Haley's parents and family have been there to help her, every step of the way.

"I had no excuse, to turn out the way I did," she said. "Addiction is no respecter of persons. It will take hold of anyone. I get emotional when I think about the pain I put others through."

She kept her addiction hidden from her parents, and split her life into two segments. Proverbs 14:12 says, "There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death," and Haley had leaped down the wrong path. She kept going to church on Sunday, and managed to keep a cheerful countenance in front of her family for a while, but as her addiction grew, she found she couldn't keep up the pretense.

"I tried to fill the God-sized hole in my life with drinking, men, and drugs," she said. "I felt that emptiness, that loneliness."

She connected with a boyfriend who had drug abuse issues, and his addiction fed her own. As he began to swirl deeper and deeper into IV drug use, she decided to join him rather than lose him.

"I wanted to experience what he loved more than he loved me," she said. "I became unrecognizable to myself."

When she found out she was pregnant, she panicked, because she knew that she could not hide much longer. The Lord transformed her panic into the first hint that she would find His power. As she prayed for the health of her baby, becoming pregnant became a steppingstone to reclaiming her life and identity. With significant family and counseling support, she cut back on her alcohol and drug use, determined to protect the little child growing inside her.

"I cared about my baby more than I cared about myself," she said. "While I was pregnant, I felt like I didn't have any friends. Nobody wants to hang out with the pregnant girl. I managed to stay sober for my baby, but after she was born, I slid back."

She got prescribed pain pills after childbirth, due to medical troubles. She also

got an appetite suppressant from a weight loss clinic. Those two legal remedies for very real needs opened the door for her addiction to re-ignite.

"Before long, I ended up hitting rock bottom and going back to all my old habits," Haley said.

She popped pills, took IV drugs, and started freaking out even in front of her family. No combination of drugs and alcohol seemed to make her feel any better for very long.

"Some people believe that life's hardships lead to abusing drugs, but I believe that it's a lack of spiritual connection to God," Haley said.

One day, she couldn't stand it any longer. She got on her knees and begged the Lord to lift her up from her suffering. She felt guided to check into a detox unit for seven days, and then went into rehab for 28 days.

"I visit these painful memories to let you know I give God the glory for who I am today, and I am so thankful to have escaped that living hell," she said.

It has been fifteen months since Haley, a Burnsville native, began this journey of recovery at Willow Ridge in Johnson City, Tennessee. After rehab, she attended meetings every day.

"I had tried so many times to be sober on my own power," she said. "I needed to find my faith in God."

Haley's congregation at South Estatoe Baptist Church prayed for her while she went through her years of struggle. Members sent letters of encouragement to her while she was in rehab, and she felt the constant support of a community that wanted her to feel whole again. Her family kept her in prayer.

"If you stop doing drugs but you don't know how to take that recovery journey, you're set up to fail," Haley said. "It is not your family's job to get you sober. It is your job. Ezekiel 36:26 says, 'I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.' God fulfilled that promise in my life, and I work every day to align my will to His will for my life."

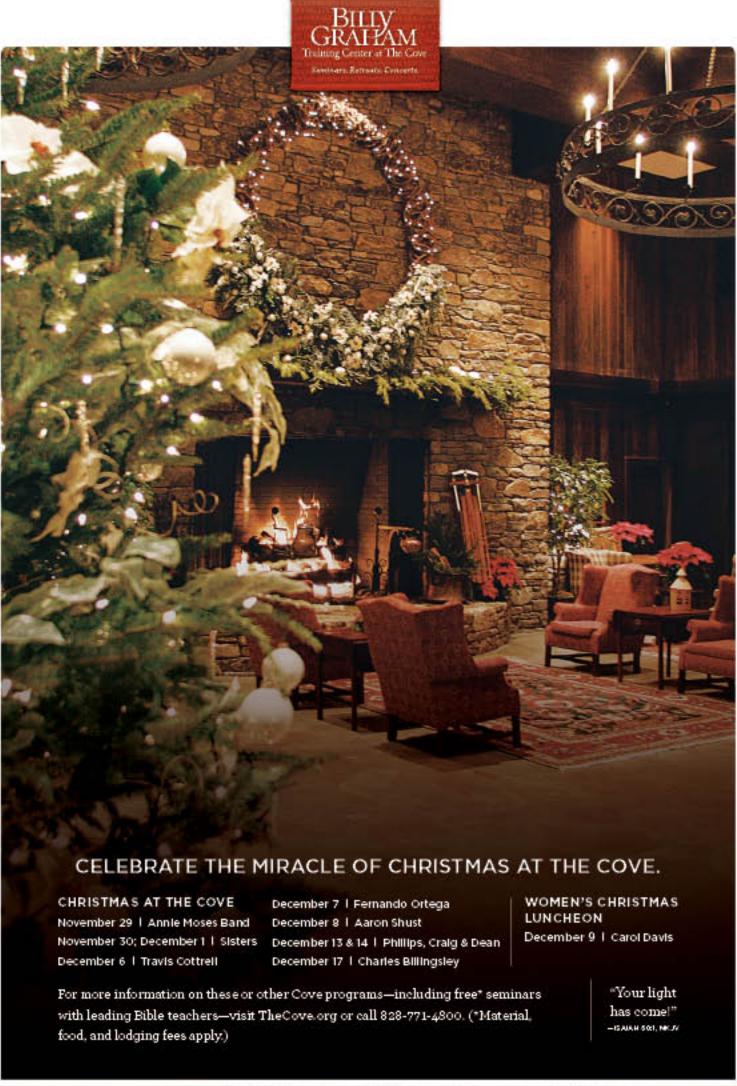
Now, Haley leads a women's group at the church. She still has tough times, but she has beaten back the addiction and restored her faith in God.

"Today, I feel my feelings," Haley said. "I feel pain, anxiety, and fear. I'm human. Stopping drugs doesn't mean stopping all the troubles in life. Now, though, I don't turn to drugs. I run to Jesus Christ as fast as I can and pray myself to sleep."

Haley has found power in her faith. She began reading her Bible and studying every day. It took eight months and 23 days, for her to read the Bible from cover to cover. She had been baptized as a child, but after rehab, she got baptized again. "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" If Corinthians 5:17

"I went down in that water one person, and came up as a new creation," she said. "My entire life I felt like I was a Christian, but knowing Jesus and feeling the power of the Holy Spirit now I know that not to be true. Upon receiving the Holy Spirit last summer and the sanctification of God Holy Word, He has set me apart. There's nothing special about me aside from my obedience. God can use anyone who is willing to sacrifice. If I can do it, you can do it, too."

Kiesa Kay, a playwright who lives in Western North Carolina, can be reached at kiesakay.com. For tickets to her play about Rebecca Boone, contact the Orchard at www.altapassorchard.com, 828 765 9531, or White Horse Black Mountain, at www.whitehorseblackmountain.com, 828 669 0816.









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BLUE RIDGE CHRISTIAN NEWS

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Distribution:

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"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace: that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation: that saith unto Zion. Thy God reigneth!" Isaiah 52:7 KJV



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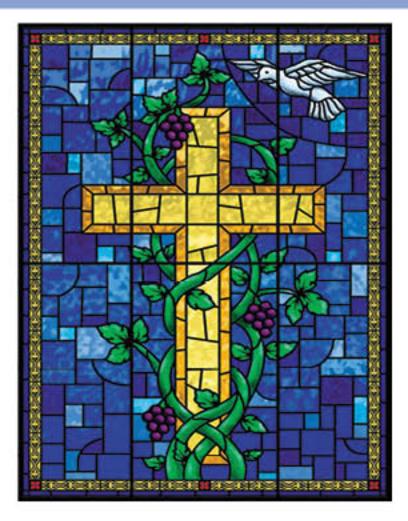
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Church Directory



The Bridge Church of WNC

207 Pinebridge Avenue Spruce Pine, NC 28777 www.bridgewnc.org

Pastors - Tom & Tammy Anglin

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

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

Morganton Seventh-day Adventist Church

2187 Jamestown Road Morganton, NC 828-584-8212

Pastor Rick Mercer

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

Berry Chapel **Baptist Church**

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

Pastor - Steve Williams

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

Where Everybody is Somebody And Jesus Christ is Lord!

Faith Fellowship Church

Champ Ray Rd. Micaville, NC 28755 (828)-675-9284 www.ffcn.org www.ffcnradio.org

Pastor: David Gillespie

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

Altapass Baptist Church

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

Dr. Marcus R. Benfield

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

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Grassy Creek Baptist Church

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

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

West Burnsville **Baptist Church**

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

Pastor: Charlie Carroway

Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. Morning Service: 11:00 a.m. Evening Service: 6:00 p.m. Wednesday Service 6:30 p.m.

Glorflying God through knowing, growing,going, to build the church and impact the world.

Burkemont Baptist Church

4668 Burkemont Rd. Morganton, NC 28655 828-437-2357 For more information, please visit www.burkemontbaptist.org

Dr. Luke A. Lane

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

Plumtree Presbyterian Church

4527 Hwy 19E Plumbree, NC 28664 828-765-6919 www.plumbreechurch.com

Pastor Ryan Bridgeo pastor@plumfreechurch.com

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

John 15:16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear finit-finit that will lest. Then the Father will give you whatever you ank in my name.

Bear Creek **Baptist Church**

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

Reverend Bruce Cannon

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

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

Great Hope Seventh-day Adventist Church

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

Pastor Barry MaHorney

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

Pine Branch Baptist Church

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

Reverend Bobby Joe Greene

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

A Bible-believing Fellowship Loving God and Loving People

St. Lucien's Catholic Church

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

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

First Baptist Church of Spruce Pine

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

> Dr. Rocky Branch Senior Pastor

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

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Spruce Pine United Methodist Church

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

Pastor Rev. Jeremy Troxler

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

The mission of Spruce Pine United

First Advent Christian Church

211 Lengir Road Morganton, NC 28655 828-437-8206 www.faccmorganton.org

Pastor Patrick Bradshaw Associate Pastor Javier

Guzman pbradshawfaccmorganton@gmail.com

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

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Christian Action League

The Floods Have Lifted Up Their Voice

By Dr. Mark Creech

While the winds of Hurricane Florence howled and the torrents of rain fell, I happened upon Psalm 93:3-4 in my daily reading of Scripture.

"The floods have lifted up, O Lord,

The floods have lifted up their voice;

The floods lift up their waves.

The Lord on high is mightier

Than the noise of many waters,

Than the mighty waves of the sea."

The aftermath of Florence is extraordinary. Thirty-three have died. Nearly 300,000 people are still without power, but that's down from 1.4 million. The Cape Fear River is set to crest at 62 feet. There are 1,100 state roads that remain closed because of the flooding. Eighteen counties have major federal disaster declarations, and still, others are expected to follow. There are 73 states of emergency still active. Seventy-seven shelters remain open with about 10,000 people. Over 5,500 pigs and 3.4 million chickens have been lost to the flood waters. Four hog lagoons have been compromised, while 13 are overflowing and 55 are close to spilling over. Crops of peanuts, cotton, and tobacco have been lost. In some cities, thousands and thousands of gallons of wastewater have spilled into various tributaries, streams, and rivers. Damages have been estimated at around \$17 billion. North Carolina's Governor, Roy Cooper, warns that 16 major rivers are at flood stage and that even though the storm has passed, it's far from over.

> "The floods have lifted up, O Lord, The floods have lifted up their voice; The floods lift up their waves."

Indeed, the flood waters are lifted up, way up! But, adds the Psalmist, "The Lord on high is mightier than the noise of many waters, than the mighty waves of the sea."

It was by his mighty power that the Lord, after the great universal deluge of Noah's day, commanded the waters to go back to their places. It was the Lord who rebuked the Red Sea, and it became dry land. It was the Lord who effortlessly drove back the waters of the Jordan for the Israelites to pass through, and with equal ease can do the same again.

What we have witnessed reminds us that after our many achievements, after

our incredible advances in technology, medicine, transportation, communication, and other human endeavors, we are still merely mortals subject to the basest of earth's elements. We are exceedingly small and vulnerable in creation's scheme.



Governor Cooper was right when he recently told the news media, "We'll get through this. North Carolinians are a resilient people."

Nevertheless, let us guard against this becoming an occasion for pride. It is the Lord, and the Lord alone, who "is mightier than the noise of many waters, than the mighty waves of the sea." The monstrous whirlwind ought to teach us humility and lead us to acknowledge that not only is he sovereign over the lash of the storm, the rush of the prodigious rivers, the immense waves that roar, but that he should also be sovereign over our hearts.

In his commentary on Psalm 93 in "The Treasury of David," Charles Spurgeon said that our sin, our rebellion, our unwillingness to submit to Christ's Lordship is also much like a tempest. He eloquently wrote:

"The ungodly are all foam and fury, noise and bluster, during their little hour, and then the tide turns, or the storm is hushed, and we hear no more of them; while the Kingdom of the eternal abides in the grandeur of its power."

Pastor Browning Ware once said, "Our worst circumstances may be God's best opportunity to bring new meaning to our lives." God can literally and figuratively calm the storm and flood waters of life, if we will look to him in faith.

We may pass through the storm safely. The sun comes out again and eventually we may recover everything lost in the hurricane. But, if we miss the opportunity the storm gives for seeing the hand of God and experiencing his grace and mercy, failing to recognize his right to benevolently rule over us, we will suffer a loss on the Day of Judgment which can never be recovered, even the loss of our own souls. Natural disasters are only for a season. Death beyond death, cut-off from God forever by the treacherous waters of his wrath, is disastrous beyond compare.

If you will listen carefully, you can hear "the floods have lifted up their voice." There may be many messages in their sound. One message, however, is dominant. The voices from the wind and water instruct:

"You desperately need God. He reigns over everything. All power in heaven and earth belongs to him. Therefore, humble yourself before him. Turn away from your sins. Believe with your whole heart in Christ and follow the Lord. Christ will calm the troubled waters of your spirit, deliver you from the Evil One's temptations when they come in like a flood, and command the waters of affliction not to overwhelm you in this life or the mighty winds of his justice to blow you away like chaff in the

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





What: This FREE event hosts trick-or-treating in a safe and friendly environment for kids of all ages!

When: October 25 from 5-7 pm

Where: Mayland Community College Mitchell Campus, Spruce Pine

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State of the Child Conference

By Bruce Cannon Mitchell County

A very informative Conference, Mitchell County's State Of The Child Conference 2018, will be held at Bear Creek Baptist Church, 327 Bear Creek Church Road, Bakersville on Saturday, October 27th. The purpose of this event is to allow everyone who attends to get a very explicit, in-depth picture of what the children and youth are dealing with in Mitchell County.

Bear Creek Baptist Church



Presenters include the Board of Education, Health Department, Social Services, Sheriff's Department, Mayland College, Mitchell County Recovery Ministries and the Youth and Children's Ministry of Bear Creek Baptist

Topics which will be presented include:

- -Substance Abuse: How to recognize it and steps to take when suspecting it.
- -Internet and Social Media Safety: How to protect your family.
- -Local Gang Activity: Is it here in Mitchell? How to recognize it and what to do
 - Recognizing the signs of abuse and neglect of children.
 - -Substance abuse: the effect on the foster care population of Mitchell County.
 - Sexually transmitted infections and diseases with a concentration on Hepatitis C.
- -What Celebrate Recovery is. Who it is for. How can it help in the recovery
- -Pre-college programs, high school equivalencies, and college degrees offered at Mayland.
 - Tuition free college credit while in high school.
 - -Christian Families and Youth Ministry in Generation "Z".

This conference will provide valuable information to everyone who attends. Every parent, grandparent, school teacher, Sunday school teacher, and daycare operator/worker needs to attend.

There will be three breakout sessions during the conference providing for as much information gathering as possible.

Please mark this date on your calendar and plan to attend. The Conference begins at 8:30am with coffee. The actual Conference begins at 9:00am and will conclude with a free lunch at noon. In addition, there will be a resource fair providing opportunity to get handouts and other free goodies.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

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

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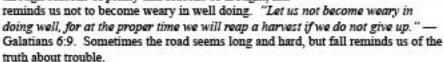
Hospice of Yancey County

Time to Change

By Jacob Willis Yancey County

Change is difficult for us all, maybe that is why God gives us four seasons. When fall begins we are reminded that things change. "To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven." — Ecclesiastes 3:1 (NKJV)

We are also reminded that fall is a time of harvest. The time when hard work pays off. In life we go through seasons of plenty and seasons of drought, fall



Trouble is always tempered by time. If you are going through a season of trouble now, rest assured it won't last forever. Trouble comes and goes just like the seasons of life. Trouble isn't permanent. Trouble is passing, just as we are passing from the long hot days of summer to the cool fall mornings. God sends relief and rescues us out of our trouble, the moment his purpose is accomplished.

When in a season of trouble we shouldn't mistake the process for the purpose. Sometimes we get lost in our pain and grief. We are submerged in our feelings and we forget the character of God. We are reminded of the words of the song "How Firm a Foundation",

> "When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie, My grace, all-sufficient, shall be thy supply. The flame shall not hurt thee; I only design thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine."

God's purpose is not to crush us completely. God doesn't cause evil, nor trouble, but he does use it as a tool for a purpose. When that purpose is completed then he brings deliverance. He is on time every time. It may seem that the pain will never stop, but be assured God has His hand on the thermostat and His eye on the temperature. "Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain." —James 5:7. God will send what we need when we need it.

Trouble is the greatest teacher. In times of trouble we learn the most and we change the most. God demonstrates his attributes plainly during times of trouble. God's faithfulness, loving kindness, gentleness, meekness, and almighty power are on display during troubled times. God's purpose in allowing trouble in our lives is to change us, and to help us change our world. Trouble teaches us patience and the power of helplessness.

Finally, it is important to remember we are just passing through. We will not be in trouble forever. We are walking through the valley of the shadow of death. We will make it to the other side. Everything changes, except God's presence. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me. God is with us through every season of life. He will never leave us or forsake us. People, circumstances, and things change constantly, but God never changes. His love for you hasn't changed and His mercy is renewed morning by morning. So watch the leaves change and remember, weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.

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





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- Thursday, October 18th- Clarence's for Brunch
- Thursday, October 25th Asheville Mall

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Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Matthew 9:37

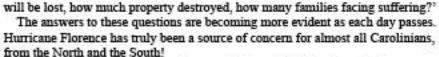
High Country Prison Ministry

What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee. (Psalm 56:3)

By Jody Griffin Mitchell and Avery Counties

"It's one thing to be scared. But it's another thing altogether to be scared and have no clue that God is with you." (spoken by a staff member as Hurricane Florence was coming ashore at the coast)

The anxiety felt by so many of us in recent days has left its mark. Beforehand there were the questions... 'What damage will result from a major hurricane being described as a storm of the century? How many lives



The news coverage regarding the storm brings a dark cloud over the incarcerated too. Many sit wondering if their parents, spouses, children and grandchildren
are safe. For some the wait is almost excruciating. Like a young man whose family lives in a coastal city who showed up at my door. His wife, his parents and his
grandmother live in the area and he had seen on the news that the town where they
live was underwater. He longed to hear that they were safe and that they knew he
was also.

And like the staff member who expressed concern and asked for prayer that the rising river levels would spare their family from severe damage to their home. The counsel each of these (and several others!) heard from their chaplain was in keeping with the words of this verse.

Being afraid or scared ('skeered') is not a sin. It isn't always a lack of faith or a sign of spiritual weakness. Being afraid is a normal part of the human process. It is given to us to keep us alert, wary of the potential for disaster. Fear is not always our enemy. There are times, like the ones referenced above, where fear is the very motivation that



compels us to abandon our trust in our own devices and instead calls us to trust in God

You may wonder how I can be so bold in the face of the obvious catastrophe of lost lives and homes as have been experienced in this storm and many others. I do not mean to be insensitive. Just as David learned to trust God's provision and protection in the face of his own losses (both personal and corporate) so we too must learn to trust God the same. It's the kind of faith that says the soldier, "I go into battle believing that God is with me. Knowing this, then no matter the outcome of this battle, I trust my God to ultimately bring victory in this war."

Trust me when I tell you that this is a lot easier said than done. And trust me as well when I tell you that the faith and trust that produces such powerful words as the ones above are the only true way to undergo trials because we don't have to be strong enough or brave enough or faithful enough. We simply need to trust God. Afraid?

Trust. God.

Thank you so much for praying and giving to support this outreach of High Country Prison Ministry!

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



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Billy Graham Evangelistic Association

Blackpool Needs a Breakthrough 'by the Power of the Holy Spirit' By Franklin Graham

about an hour-and-a-half north of Liverpool.

Franklin Graham will preached in Blackpool last weekend, Sept. 21-23. The city sits on England's west coast,

Dear Friend,

This month, I am headed to Blackpool, England, one of the darkest cities in that nation. Alcoholism is every-

where, and the suicide rate is sky high. The British media have referred to it as the unhealthiest place in the nation. Drugs, gambling, crime, and violence are all epidemic.

Churches in the city and surrounding Lancashire area have been praying for their community for years, and they invited me to come in September to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ. People there need to know God loves them and wants to free them from darkness and sin. They need to know that the power of the Gospel—the "power of Christ" (2 Corinthians 12:9, NASB)—brings new life that will last for eternity.

But secular voices in the city have risen up in opposition. They strongly resist God's Word and want to undermine the evangelistic outreach, or even derail it if they can.

Pray for the power of God's Spirit to break through in Blackpool, that many souls would be saved and delivered from darkness. Pray that we will have "boldness in our God to speak ... the gospel of God amid much opposition" (1 Thessalonians 2:2). And pray for "those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth," (2 Timothy 2:25).

You Prayed for the West Coast and God Answered

You prayed that God would do a mighty work in hearts across California and then the Pacific Northwest. He answered. It is hard to express how thrilled we all are at what we saw God do. The Bible says that "with Him is abundant redemption" (Psalm 130:7, NKJV)—to Him be the glory!

During the Decision America tour up the West Coast, which ended on Aug. 13 in northern Washington, more than 125,000 came out to hear the Gospel. At each stop, I told those who gathered that salvation if they would repent of their sins and accept His Son, Jesus Christ, by faith.

The Bible says, "There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12, ESV). I wanted every individual to hear the Good News that through Jesus, anyone can have a new beginning. We praise God that thousands of people found that new beginning in Christ, receiving lasting hope for this life and for eternity.

See photo galleries and stories from the Decision America Pacific Northwest

During the Decision America tour up the West Coast, which ended on Aug. 13 in northern Washington, more than 125,000 came out to hear the Gospel.

In Medford, Oregon, one of our trained prayer volunteers noticed a woman in the crowd who was struggling with her emotions while I presented the Gospel. The woman stood at the invitation to receive Christ, and our volunteer went over to her.

The woman said she had been longing to make a new start but hadn't known how until that moment. She wanted Jesus to come in and change her life. The volunteer encouraged and prayed with her, gave her discipleship materials, and made sure she knew of a Bible-centered church where she could grow in her faith.

At the last stop on the California part of the tour, in Redding earlier in the summer, a mother and son heard the Gospel. God moved in their hearts, but they were not ready to act. God kept stirring, and a few weeks later they drove up to Oregon in order to hear the Gospel again at another Decision America event.

There they each made a decision to turn from their sins, ask for forgiveness, and surrender themselves to Jesus Christ, trusting Him as Savior and Lord. As God worked, there were people in every city who made that decision—hundreds of them. It's a decision that changes everything!

I am so grateful for the people ... who made life-changing decisions for Christ. At each stop the crowd joined me in prayer for their city, state, and elected leaders, including the president and their governor—by name. I also challenged churches and believers in each place to stand boldly for the things of God and let their voice be heard. Christians need to get much more actively involved in what's happening in their communities and in local and state government before it's too late.

They need to get out there and run for office, serve on local school boards, speak up for what's right, and—most importantly—pray and vote.

I am so grateful for the people in all 17 cities on the West Coast tour who made life-changing decisions for Christ. We give God all the glory.

The Rest of Louis Zamperini's Powerful Story

The movie Unbroken, based on the life of World War II hero Louis Zamperini, packed theaters after its release in 2014. That movie covered only the first part of Zamperini's remarkable life, and many were disappointed not to see the story of his conversion to Jesus Christ at my father's 1949 Crusade in Los Angeles and how God transformed him so completely.

Now there is a sequel, Unbroken: Path to Redemption, that picks up where the first movie ended. In the new movie, my oldest son, Will, plays the part of a young Billy Graham. It will be in theaters beginning in mid-September.

We have BGEA evangelistic events in 15 more cities in the next 16 weeks. We could not do this work that God has given us without your prayers and gifts, and we are grateful.

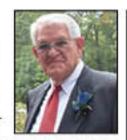
May God richly bless you.

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

Life Lessons

By Doug Harrell

Having grown up on the farm, October to me has always been harvest time; it still is. The farm harvest is important and critical, but the soul harvest is even more important in our lives. I would expect a large percentage of the people reading this article are old enough to have children and this is the very first harvest field of souls that we need to concentrate on. If we are not careful in life we will let it get in the



way of living! We get so busy being busy that we let time pass that we should be spending with our children and grandchildren teaching them the things that are truly important. Jesus was very clear on the importance of children. "And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me. But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea." Matthew 18:2-6 KJV. We must accept the fact that the most important task assigned a parent is to nurture our children and bring them into a relationship with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. In today's politically correct environment many times the prevailing attitude is that there are various ways to heaven and that all religions lead to God and heaven. That is not the way the Bible reads! "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." John 14:6 KJV As our children grow and leave the environment of the home, which hopefully is Christ centered, and go out into todays world their thinking will be challenged to an extent that I could not have even comprehended years ago when I was growing up. We MUST get our children in a Bible teaching and preaching church environment, not by sending them, but by taking them! If we parents don't lead by example the teaching will not stick!

Another area that we must take a strong stand in is in our election process. I am not going to say vote for any particular party line but we must stand up for our Christian values if we expect our children to have anything like we experienced growing up. Examine the values and platforms of the people that are running for office, ask tough questions of them regarding their individual values and stands

on things. Be brave enough to vote for the people that exhibit and follow Christian values in their personal lives. This country became great because of the value system it was based on and will crumble if those values are



allowed to be eroded away. We owe it to our children, grandchildren and future generations to leave them a country that they can be free in and can grow both spiritually and otherwise. We can be successful personally, but we must leave a culture behind that allows spiritual growth, not just business and personal wealth. "For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" Matthew 16:26 KJV Our focus must be on being sure that we will be able to spend eternity with our families in the mansions of glory and to be able to do that, we must contribute and work with all our hearts and minds to bring our children along on this journey. Walk the walk and don't just talk the talk, we do have a role to play! God Bless!

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



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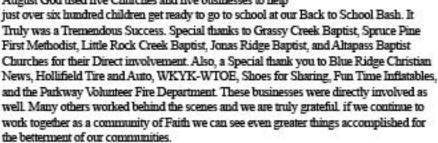
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Altapass Baptist Church

Thank-You By Pastor Marcus Benfield Mitchell County

I trust you are enjoying the somewhat cooler fall weather. It won't be long until the colors of God's handy work will be all around us. As we enter this beautiful time of harvest and blessing let us not forget to Praise the Lord for all His Many Blessings on each of us. He has truly been gracious to us all.

As I sit here at my desk writing I am amazed at how God uses Ordinary People to accomplish his will and purpose. In August God used five Churches and five businesses to help



By the time you read this our Local churches and community will have already come together to help our neighbors to the east who were so devastated by Humicane Florence. You, as a community, helped provide relief that reached thousands in need in Elizabethtown NC. This area was devastated by over Thirty-Five inches of rain, flooding, and extreme wind damage.

My purpose for writing all this is to say as a Local Pastor, I am truly overwhelmed at all the Lord is doing in our midst as we come together as a community. I am truly Honored to be a part of what God is doing in our area and I truly believe if we continue to come together as one body, God will send Revival. If you study the New Testament model of the early Church in the book of Acts you find one common theme and that is UNITY. May we continue to work together as a Community of ONE united in CHRIST that we may see REVIVAL in our generation. OH, How Desperately We Need It!

May we pastors see the need to pray for one another and pray that God will, through His Spirit, Lead us as His under-shepherds to step out and take the lead before our congregations to continue to work together for His Glory! We can always seem to come together to meet a need and for that I am thankful, but what hinders us from coming together as a body unified to see the strength and the power of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ at work among us? If we truly want to see Revival this is what it will take! Will you join me in Prayer and ask God to unite us as His people that we may be people of the Word of God working together to truly see Revival? For the Sake of Our Children, let us Truly Seek the

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





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KidsnChrist

Grief Motivated By Alan Griffin

I had a pretty rough January back in 1997. My uncle passed away and 25 days later my 1 1/2 year old nephew passed. He was born with multiple heart defects. He survived his first surgery, but after his second heart surgery his lungs filled up with fluid, and he died. It was a very dramatic time for our



family. My mom would babysit him on Sundays, and I would go over there to hang out with my nephew, Dylan. I taught him the words touchdown and homerun. The last time I saw him I went to hug him right before I was leaving. He hugged my neck and wouldn't let go. He held on to me for 30 minutes, and my mom had to pry him from my neck. I believe he knew his fate. I believe our spirits are much more in tune with God when we are young. The older we get the harder it seems to stay in close contact with our heavenly Father.

It is difficult to deal with the death of a loved one. Often times there is denial of our misfortune, and then our mind puts us in a state of shock. It is a very numbing feeling. We replay in our mind conversations with our loved one. We often feel guilty for not spending more time with them. It is important that we share our pain and not hold on to it. We should never try to escape the pain with drugs or alcohol. It will only make things worse. Remorse is a natural feeling and we should embrace our loss. Frustration over our loss only leads to anger. Because we feel helpless we may lash out at others and place the blame on somebody else's shoulders. It is more important than ever to think before we speak, because we could do lasting damage to relationships. We ask God, "why me?" At times making promises we can't keep. And then just when we think we are getting back to normal we fall into depression, loneliness, and despair. We will spend long periods of time in sad reflection. This is completely normal. We just have to talk it out with ourselves, and God, until finally we realize the true magnitude of our loss.

This is about the time we have an upward turn. Our mind starts functioning in the present, and we can get back to family, friends, and work. At this time, we start to focus on restructuring our life without our loved one. We accept the reality of the situation and move forward. It may not mean a return to happiness, because grief affects everyone in different ways. Some manage to move on rather quickly, while others never recover from the loss. A good sign is when we start to plan things for the future and anticipate good times ahead. It is best to stay busy and try to focus on the tasks at hand. Jesus Christ suffered the greatest separation anxiety of anyone. When He was being crucified He literally separated Himself from His Father. "
Surely He has borne our grieft And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted." Isaiah 53:4 NKJV

Grief is a tool we can use to further our relationship with God. Even if we are confident of our loved one's final destination we need to use our experience to drive us to winning more souls. Death is a permanent situation, so we start with friends and family to make sure of their salvation. Emotion is a powerful motivator, and as we heal we need more than ever to spend time with our heavenly Father. The Holy Spirit can manifest our groanings to God when we are unable to. We motivate our grief into action, and we never take a chance with any one's salvation again. We use our struggles to help others overcome their conflicts in a positive fashion. Denying ourselves and placing all of the focus on other people's struggles heals us from the inside out. This prevents our grief from giving Satan access to our heart.

Without a struggle there is no progress for success. Grief is just another reason for us to work harder for our family and friends. We can attempt to bear the weight of our burdens alone, or we can release it all to Christ, focusing instead on helping others to do the same. I have never really understood this Bible verse until now. "But You have seen, for You observe trouble and grief, To repay Your hand. The helpless commits himself to You; You are the helper of the fatherless." Psalm 10:14 NKJV This is exactly what I did when I stopped focusing all my attention on my grief. I started to follow Christ's example. A few months into 1997 I started kidsnchrist. I focused on the children in my neighborhood by taking them to church. Not me, but Jesus Christ through me, reached hundreds of kids for His name's sake. We fed them, clothed them, and shared with them the gospel of Jesus Christ. I had no idea what I was doing at the time, but now that I have reread this Bible verse, it all seems to make sense now.

If you are struggling with the loss of a loved one, won't you pray with me?

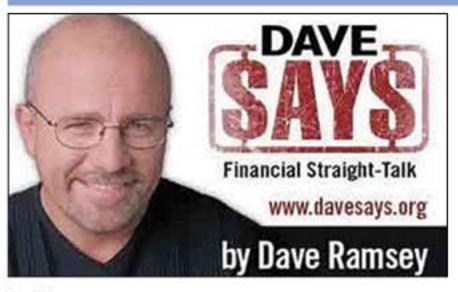
Dear Heavenly Father,

Bless me because I mourn. Wrap Your arms around me and comfort me in my loss. Come to my assistance Lord. Please take this consuming anguish and heal the wounds of my heart. I need Your peace that transcends all understanding to guard my heart and my mind. Rest my soul and guide my emotions so that sleep rules over the night and concern for others rules my day. Draw near to me and heal my broken heart. Help me not to grieve like those who have yet to discover Your kindness and mercy. Please make the next day better than the last and give me hope for tomorrow.

In Jesus Christ's name I pray, Amen.

Alan Griffin started the kidsnchrist ministries in November 1997. He has worked with inner city kids for 21 years. He found a need for specialized Biblical literature that would reach people of all ages and has been writing since 2005. The ministry has expanded their websites to reach around the world. Kidsnchrist.com, millennialchristian.com, teensnchrist.com, seniorsnchrist.com, picture-verse.com, and soulworks-smallgroups.com. We had an outreach of over 13,000,000 people last year with 36,000,000 impressions. If you have any questions for Alan you can reach him at alan@kidsnchrist.com

Dave Says:



Dear Dave.

My wife and I are not on the same page when it comes to money and our two teenage daughters. I think they should be learning the value of work and money, but she doesn't want them to work. She regularly hands them spending money and buys them expensive gifts. I want our girls to have some nice things, but this is starting to cause problems in our relationship. Do you have any advice?

Stan

Dear Stan.

Kids should learn to work and make money at an early age. We've given nice gifts to our kids, but the difference is they also worked and made money for themselves. The gifts we gave them were for special occasions. Showering our kids with money and expensive toys all the time was not our way of life.

In this situation, your wife is allowing them to be nothing but consumers. I know she loves them, but they're not learning how to work, and they're not learning how to save or give. This is setting them up for a lifetime of unrealistic expectations. If something doesn't happen to change things, you're going to end up with two spoiled little girls, who think they should be given everything their entire lives.

Still, I think the biggest problem is you and your wife are experiencing a communication and marital breakdown. If the kids weren't in the picture, I've got a feeling the same problems would exist. The difference is they would manifest themselves in other ways.

Obviously, your wife needs to stop being so impulsive where the kids are concerned. Try sitting down with her, and gently explaining your feelings. Let your wife know you love her and how generous she is, but you're worried this is having a negative impact on your children. Maybe you could try to establish some guidelines as to when really nice gifts are appropriate, too. There's a middle ground you can reach, but it's going to take some time and effort. Most of all, it means the two of you are going to have to communicate and work together for the good of your kids.

—Dave

Dear Dave,

I just graduated from college recently. Is it a waste of time to apply for a job if you have a degree in the proper field, but no real work experience? Daniel

Dear Daniel,

Absolutely not! The only sure-fire way to ensure you'll miss out on a job is by not applying for the position.

Send a copy of your resumé to every job opportunity for which you have a reasonable chance of being hired. Then, when you get an interview, go in there with your head held high. Be articulate, enthusiastic, and carry yourself with purpose. Use your style, intelligence, education, and confidence to sell yourself and your ability to jump in, learn quickly, and get the job done.

I've met lots of people who say they have 20 years of experience. But in a lot of cases it's more like one year of experience 20 times. That kind of "experience" is useless. I've also met many sharp, educated people without experience, but you can tell they're the kind who will put their minds to work, think outside the box, and figure out a way to get the job done with excellence.

As an employer, if I've got a choice between the two, that's the one I want on my team!

—Dave

Dave Ramsey is CEO of Ramsey Solutions. He has authored seven best-selling books, including The Total Money Makeover. The Dave Ramsey Show is heard by more than 14 million listeners each week on 600 radio stations and multiple digital platforms. Follow Dave on the web at daveramsey.com and on Twitter at @DaveRamsey.









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Lana's Lines

A Rock is a Rock . . . Or is It? By Lana Ellis Kingsport, Tennessee

A rock is a rock...or is it? A rock may be a stone, a pebble, a gem or even a boulder. A mass of rocks compressed together forms a mountain. The Rocky Mountains out west, Blowing Rock in Western North Carolina and Mount Leconte in Tennessee, to name a few, are easily identified by the mass of rocks that make up each of them. If you've been stopped in traffic while driving through the gorge on Interstate 40 between



Asheville and Knoxville it was most likely due to a rock slide. Rockslides may be a headache for drivers, but they do give a close up view of the composition of the mountains.

Matthew also wrote on the subject of rocks in chapter 16 verse 18 and quoted Jesus as saying, "Simon, You are Peter and upon this rock I will build My church." Our English word "rock" came from Old French and our word "stone" originated from Anglo-Saxon (Old English). Matthew wrote neither in Old French nor Old English. His original words were written in Aramaic, a form of the Hebrew language. In Aramaic Jesus said, "Simon, You are Kephas...". According to John 1:42 Jesus changed Simon's name to "Cephas". "Cephas" is simply a Latin transliteration of the Aramaic name "Kephas". In the Greek language Peter's name is "Petro". So, whether it's the Aramaic name "Kephas", the Latin transliteration name "Cephas", the Greek name "Petro" or the English name "Peter", they all have one thing in common. They all have the same meaning, "Rock". Therefore, in English Jesus, would say "Simon, You are Rock..."

The "rock" in Matthew's account is often a controversial subject. The Roman Catholic Church's interpretation of Matthew 16:18 is "Your name is Peter and upon you, Peter, I will build my church". The Greek translation in Matthew is not "You are Petro and upon this Petro I will build My Church." Instead it's "You are Petro and upon this "Petra" I will build My church." Greek words are based on gender. Male words end in "o" and female words end in "a". "Petro", the name given to Peter, is a masculine word. "Petra" on the other hand is a feminine word meaning "a mass of rock". Just as the Greek word "Petra" is feminine, Christ's church is often referred to with a female pronoun as in Ephesians 5:25-27.

In Matthew 16:18 Jesus said He will "build" His church. In order to build one needs building materials. A wise place to start a building project is by correctly placing a cornerstone. All other rocks forming the foundation will be set in reference to that stone. Isaiah 28:16 says "I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation." It is noteworthy that Peter, himself, applies this verse to Jesus in 1 Peter 2:26. In ancient times an animal or human sacrifice became part of the cornerstone of a building. How fitting, since there's no greater sacrifice on our behalf than Jesus. Since Jesus is the Cornerstone of His church who are the "Petros" that will be set in reference to Him?

In Matthew 16:15 Jesus asked His disciples, "Who do you say that I am?" Peter answered, "Thou art the Christ, the son of the living God." A similar response by the other disciples is found in Mathew 14:33. After Jesus had walked on water Matthew wrote, "Then they (the disciples) that were in the ship came and worshipped him, saying, 'Of a truth thou art the Son of God'. The "Petros" that are set in reference to the Cornerstone is Peter and the apostles who confessed that "Jesus is the Christ, the son of the living God." The remaining Petros that lie on the foundation of Jesus and the apostles are those who make the same confession with their mouths and believe in their hearts that Jesus died for their sins and rose from the dead. These are past, present and future believers. Peter shed more light on this when he referred to Gentile believers as "living stones being built up as a spiritual house." (1 Peter 2:5)

Paul describes this Jesus' "building project" in Ephesians 2:20-22. Speaking

to Gentile believers he said, "You are of God's household, having been built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole building being fitted together is grow-



ing into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit." (NASV)

In Matthew 16:18 Jesus said to Simon, "You are Petro and upon this Petra I will build My church." My loose translation is, "Simon, you are Rock, and I will build my church with a mass of Rocks the likes of you." Now back to the subject at hand, "A rock is a rock...or is it?" In Matthew 16:18 rock is Petra not Petro!

(The statement recorded in Matthew 16:17-19 is not repeated in its entirety in the other three Gospels. Mark writes in chapter 8 verses 27-30 that Jesus asked the same question and Peter responded in verse 29, "Thou art the Christ." No further comments by Jesus followed. The same is true in Luke 9:20.)

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



Billy Graham Evangelistic Association

A Christ-Centered Home

By Billy Graham

In the absence of sound moral teaching in our schools, it is more important now than ever for parents to teach their children by word and by example how to live for Christ in today's world. This message by Billy Graham offers some basic principles for a godly home.

—The Editors

The family used to be a close-knit group, and the home was self-contained. It was shelter, it was secu-

rity; it was a kind of school where life's basic lessons were taught; it was a kind of church where God was honored. It was a factory where the basic necessities of life were made. It was a place where wholesome recreation and simple pleasures were enjoyed.

A concerned national leader said, "The home is the citadel of American life. If the home is lost, all is lost." Thoughtful people the world over agree that if society's health in the world is to be maintained, the home must be preserved.

When will we learn that houses are not homes, money is not security, gadgets cannot bring happiness and there are no substitutes in our home life for faith, hope and love?

If the foundations of our homes are to be repaired, there are certain God-ordained principles that must be restored. The Bible teaches that God performed the first marriage in the garden of Eden. Before the church, before the government, before the school, the home was founded. It is the basic unit of society.

Love Is Essential

The first essential for a happy Christian home is that love must be practiced. Homes that are built on animal attraction and lust—or on anything other than love—are destined to crumble and fall.

Love is the cohesive force that holds the family together. The Bible says of one of the earliest families, "Then Isaac ... took Rebekah and she became his wife, and he loved her" (Genesis 24:67). The Bible says, "So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies" (Ephesians 5:28). The Bible again says, "Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them" (Colossians 3:19). Love imposes a tremendous responsibility on all members of a family, but it is a responsibility accompanied by glorious rewards.

"Love," says the Bible, "just as Christ ... loved the church and gave Himself for her" (Ephesians 5:25). How did Christ love the church? He loved it despite its faults, its mistakes and its weaknesses.

Marriage too often ends in disillusionment, because during the courtship each puts his best foot forward; but after the honeymoon the true personality comes to light, virtues are minimized, and defects are magnified. If the marriage is based on physical attractiveness only, "love" dissolves away.

However, true love does not fail. It loves even as Christ loved the church, despite personality defects, physical blemishes and mental quirks. Love is deep, abiding and eternal. It loves its mate, not for what he or she seems to be, but for what the mate really is—his own, her beloved, his chosen—even as Christ loved the church

Nothing can bring a sense of security into the home as true love can. When there is not love, when harsh words are spoken, when quarrels rage, when discord reigns, the child trembles with fear.

Discord in the home says to the child, "There's something wrong here. Home should not be like this." So, let love flow through your house like a fragrant vapor, saturating the home with deep affection and understanding.

Teach Your Children

The second essential of a happy home is that there be order and discipline. The home can be a sanctuary of peace or it can be a bedlam of confusion. Isaiah the prophet realized this when he went to Hezekiah the king and said, "Set your house in order" (Isaiah 38:1).

Slipshod homes are bound to produce slipshod character, for the basic lessons of life are learned at home.

The word discipline means "to teach." The job of teaching has been too long left to the schoolteacher and the scoutmaster.

As a parent, your job is to teach your children by precept and example to be good members of the household, good citizens of the community, good members of the church and followers of Jesus Christ. It takes time, patience, resourcefulness and skill to set your house in order, but God has said that it is an essential we cannot shun.

God said, "You shall teach [my words] diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down and when you rise up" (Deuteronomy 6:7).

In other words, the Bible says that we are to teach our children all day long by precept and example.

If a child is to mature, he or she must learn to observe rules. Whether we like it or not, life is filled with rules and laws. If children are to survive, they must know the rules of safety. If they are to be healthy, they must know the rules of health. If they are to get along with people, they must learn the rules of etiquette and courtesy. If they are to drive a car, they must learn the rules of the road. If he or she becomes an athlete, they must learn to observe the rules of the game. You do your children a great injustice when you do not discipline them and when you fail to teach them to discipline themselves.

Of course, in disciplinary action, whatever sort it may be, you must always let the child know that you love him or her, that you are interested in their welfare and that you long for their full development.

By discipline, I certainly do not mean constant scolding. I do not mean continuous nagging, lecturing or brutal spanking. Our disciplinary action should be firm,



Anne, Ruth, Bunny (Ruth), Gigi, Franklin and Billy enjoy a fall day together.

sane, fair, consistent and, above all, it should be given in a spirit of loving helpfulness. When children see that we have their best interest at heart, their response will be favorable.

Another thing, as a parent you ought to praise your children for the good things they do. Admiration and approval are very important elements in good discipline, and if we fail to recognize them, our children may get discouraged and say, "What's the use of being good? Daddy or Mommy never notice it."

Be an Example

Third, it is essential that you be an example. Someone has said that the highest compliment one can be paid is the compliment of imitation. If your children love you, they are bound to copy you.

The little boy looks for a noble, manly image to imitate. The little girl is her mother in miniature. We scold our children when they fuss or quarrel, but where did they learn to fuss? Are we always polite and considerate of others? Unfortunately, they don't learn much by the lecture method; rather, they learn by observing and imitating Mother and Father.

We tell them that they should be unselfish, but do they see unselfishness demonstrated in our lives? We tell them that they should be honest, but our words fall flat unless we practice absolute honesty before them.

We tell them that God answers prayer, but do they ever see us on our knees? We tell them that the Bible is the Word of God, but do they ever see us reading it, pouring over it and sharing its precious truths with them?

Children will invariably talk, eat, walk, think, respond and act like their parents. Give them a target to shoot at. Give them a goal to work toward. Give them a pattern which they can see clearly, and you give them something that gold and silver cannot buy. John Wesley once said, "I learned more about Christianity from my mother than from all the theologians of England."

Does Christ live in your home?

That is the question we must answer for ourselves if our homes are to be the bulwark of the nation. Is Christ real to you as a parent? Are you imparting implicit faith to your children? Faith in Christ is the most important of all principles in the building of a well-ordered home.

Is Christ the center of your home?

Do you have daily Bible reading and prayer in your home? Is grace said at the table? Do you go with your children to Sunday school and church? I ask you today: Is Christ the head of your home?

"I do not see how your home can be truly and deeply happy unless Christ is the center of your home. If you are having difficulties and irritations and problems in your home, bring them to Christ."

—Billy Graham

He can be the head of your home, but first He will have to live in your heart. I am asking you to renounce your sins, your failures and your mistakes of the past, and to come to the cross of Christ where He died for your sins. Offer yourself to Him and He will receive you. "The one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out" (John 6:37).

I do not see how your home can be truly and deeply happy unless Christ is the center of your home. If you are having difficulties and irritations and problems in your home, bring them to Christ. There is not a problem that Christ cannot settle, if you will come by faith and give your life and your heart to Him. And you can do it right now.

Renounce your sins; confess them to God. Receive Jesus Christ by faith into your heart, and He will come in and transform you and make you a new person.

You will be born again.

Then you can be the right kind of person in your home, and your home can be truly and deeply happy. ©1956 BGEA

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

Ask Christ into your heart now.



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Life Ministries

New Community Outreach Opening - The B.E.A.R. Closet

By Cheryl Wallen

(Baby Equipment and Resource Closet) at St. Paul's UMC

Beginning Wednesday, August 26th, 2018, the Baby Equipment and Resource Closet (B.E.A.R) located at St. Paul's United Methodist Church 223 Hillside Street in Asheville will open its doors to families with children. Faith community and pre-school volunteers at St. Paul's are reaching out to serve low income families, expectant parents, single parents, grandparents raising grandchildren, and any family

struggling to provide basic necessities for their infants and children. The B.E.A.R. Closet will offer free gently used clothing (preemies to 5 toddler), shoes, baby equipment such as strollers, high chairs, swings, pack n' plays, bouncy seats, bottles, diapers, wipes, bathing and hygiene products, bedding items, as well as loving encouragement to expecting moms and parents. The outreach will be open the second and fourth Wednesdays of every month from 4:00 p.m.



Asheville neighbors and local community agencies can visit the outreach and drop off donations of baby clothes, dispers and items mentioned above. Curbside drop off available. Monetary donations are also welcomed. For more information, or to inquire about volunteer opportunities, please call (828) 252-6512.

Cheryl Wallen is the Director of LifeMinistries Outreach.

Crossword Solution

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Sudoku Solution

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

By Barbara Harrell

This is not the time for complacency if you really care about Biblical principles and Christian beliefs. We are facing a time in our country when the freedom to serve our God is being threatened and even forbidden. We as Christians have been sitting back and refusing to Stand Up and share our faith and take a stand on what is right and wrong. Our Bible is very clear on what is right and what is wrong. We say, "I don't mix religion and politics". Well that is certainly an excuse while our country goes down the tubes.



Our values are slipping away while we hide in our homes and hope someone else will solve the problems. Well, I think we have seen that someone else has not shown up as our knight in shining armor. We will each have to take some responsibility and DO SOMETHING, and the first thing might be to register and then go out on the 6th of November and cast a vote for God.

Our church membership is falling away, our streets are filled with drugs, our precious children are being put in foster care, our foundation is crumbling, and the only way to fix it is to start with the right people in leadership. We need to start with the local, then the state, and then our federal government. Learn who these people are and what

they stand for and then cast your vote for the ones that most closely believe as you do. Don't forget that we need judges that have good strong Christian principles too.

What would our community look like if we could offer good paying jobs to those who are looking? Then, get rid of our drug and alcohol abuse problem. People caring for each other and helping when others needed us. Not



being afraid to get our hands dirty and loving all mankind. Being willing to stand up and pledge allegiance to our flag that stands for a great country. Being willing to pray and humble ourselves to ask our God to forgive us for the mess we have made. He tells us in II 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". We so need our country healed.

Soon we may not have the priviledge of voting. So, PRAY PRAY PRAY AND VOTE VOTE VOTE while we still can!!

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

Neuropathy



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Clint's Chronicles on the Funny Farm

The Rest of the Story

By Doug Harrell

Those of you that grew up around farm tractors and trailers will get a big kick out of this story and the pictures that go with it. As you would well know, when you turn a tractor with a trailer attached, if you turn too sharp, the lugs on the rear wheel will catch on the frame of the trailer. This is exactly what happened with Farmer Clint in this episode of folly. Even though he had been operating the tractors on and off for several months, he forgot that it had individual brakes for the rear wheels, and that by locking the outside wheel and turning toward it, he could get out of the bind he was in. Had a good laugh and took a minute to get it all fixed. He was a mess!

The Funny Farm

Dear friends.

Three years ago I was invited to take part in the Mineral City Heritage Festival in Spruce Pine. A trusting soul, who shall remain nameless...although I believe it was Chris Mc-Curry...asked my friend Doug if he would provide the tractor for hayrides at this extravaganza. Always the community supporter and overall nice fellow, he consented to loan his farm tractor and trailer for the event.

When Farmer Doug first told me about the "OPPORTU-NITY" I believed it was a positive move for Blue Ridge Christian News. After all, it is important for our company

to support the community. "Just think about it, Pollard," he exclaimed, "Hayrides with Farmer Clint will be a huge success!" I'm still trying to remember how Doug providing a tractor for hayrides morphed into Farmer Clint providing hayrides! To be honest, I was astonished that my pal would subject our town to the antics of Farmer Clint on a tractor. Nevertheless, I began to mentally prepare for the coming out party, "Farmer Clint's Debutante Ball", if you will φ .



God protected Farmer Clint on Heritage Festival Day, at least while he was driving local kiddos around on the hay wagon. There were no "near misses", no scary mishaps (at least none that I will admit), and everyone enjoyed the hayride.

Well, to be totally truthful Farmer Clint's Hayride was not exactly the headline event others expected @. I sat aboard the tractor from 8:30 am - 1:30 pm and had exactly 2 – that's right, TWO – hay-riders. The good news...the two little passengers I had were thrilled to be aboard the Farmer Clint Express!

Farmer Clint "Sent Packing"

Every now and then, as I sat aboard the Kioti tractor I've come to know and love, Starli McDowell, then the Executive Director of Spruce Pine Main Street, would stop for a visit. Actually I think she was hoping to collect the vast wads of cash I amassed to support the new Central Park project on Lower Street. I am happy to report that I gave Starli the entire \$4.00 I earned making trips up and down Oak Street. How embarrassing ϕ .

Starli and I watched Roger Pitman's mule drawn carriage, a beautiful and majestic rig, make its way up and down the street. Riders, young and old, blew right by old Farmer Clint on their way to pet the mules and board Roger's mule limousine. It was about that time, as I recall, that Starli suggested, "Farmer Clint, you're OUTA HEAH!" I looked deep into Starli's eyes and could tell she wasn't kidding...Farmer Clint was "The Biggest Loser!" It was time to skedaddle, vamoose, get-the-heck out of Spruce Pine!

Rejection Turns to Fanfare

Oh how I dreaded the LONG drive from Lower Street to my home in Minpro...
nearly 2.5 miles of torture. What would I tell my beautiful bride Kay? Rejected
and dejected, my Farmer Clint overalls drooping. I eased the trusty Kioti and
trailer into the flowing traffic. My thoughts were of unfulfilled dreams, dashed
hopes, and public humiliation. And then, I mused to myself "Don't run over
anyone with this tractor!" Then, "I hope there's no traffic when I try to cross Hwy
226S."

As I meandered down Upper Street people began to call out to me, "Hi, Farmer Clint!" Cars and trucks honked and waved, I returned the gestures. As I motored past The Market on Oak, Shirley Hise and others waved excitedly at me... Doug Crosby, Mark Meadows' Regional Coordinator, called out to me... Syvana Monroe, Doug's then-fiance, smiled and waved happily. And I thought to myself, "What a day for Farmer Clint!" I was baaaack

!

No Good Deed Goes Unpunished

Arriving home safely I decided to position the tractor and trailer in a way that would make it easy for Farmer Doug to rejoin it to his truck.

Now earlier that day, recall that I had been warned "Farmer Clint, DO NOT MAKE TOO SHARP A TURN or it will jack-knife." I don't know why Doug is forever barking warnings to me!

I drove the tractor into our lower lot, thinking..."I will just do a circle, and get everything lined up for Doug; that way he won't have to hassle with it when he comes to fetch the equipment." Well, I made a circle as planned...WHAM! The tractor groaned and belched, the trailer spun, the wheels spit sod and dirt in my face...I was stuck! Better said...on a scale of 1 to 10...this was a perfect 10 jack-knife.

Déjà vu to that earlier rebuke, "Farmer Clint, DO NOT MAKE TOO SHARP A TURN or it will jack-knife @ ." I was frantic, had no idea what to do ... so I did what came natural, I gave the Kioti more gas, pedal to the floor ... wheels spun, then hung-up on the tongue of the trailer. It seemed like the tractor wheels were sinking ever deeper into the soft soil.

Dang it...rats...doggone...now what????? I looked to heaven and said, "Lord, not now...don't let me screw up now! I don't want Doug to have to bail me out AGAIN!" But the harder I tried the worse things became. This tractor was STUCK...the trailer was eternally affixed to the tractor tire...and, for all I knew, it was about to plunge to the center of the soft earth.

Honey I'm Home!

Well, I disembarked from my stuck machine and crawled along the ground, wondering if I could lift the trailer to straighten it out... I conjured up ways that

I could hook that tractor to a rope and my waist, then pull it straight... all without breaking my back. Nahh-hhh, it was a lost cause and I needed to face the music with Kay.

I found her in the bedroom getting all gussied-up, preparing to



attend the Festival. Perhaps it was my despondent facial expression, maybe that sickly smile and hunted look that comes upon me whenever I mess up...regardless, she asked, "What in the heck is the matter?" So much for surprise.

Calmly, expertly I explained that the farm equipment can be very finicky...and, after all, I am inexperienced with some maneuvers...and that grass in our lower field is rather soft...AND I was now hopelessly stuck. "The good news," I said feigning humor, "is that it could be viewed as rural yard art!" Kay could tell my heart wasn't in it.

Then I imploded..."I hate myself, I can't do anything right, why couldn't I be successful just once...I want to be someone else. I want to leave here and never come back!" Gently, tenderly Kay inquired, "Who would you like to be? Where would you like to go?" "I don't know," I bellowed, "but I'm not telling Doug about this!" Gently, tenderly Kay replied, "Yes you are. Doug knew what he would get when he asked you to do this event. He can fix it, you'll see." Why, Lord, is the woman always right?

We walked down the hill together; she gazed in amazement at my debacle. After a while we began to chuckle, well she chuckled more than I did! "Doug can fix it, you'll see," she reiterated.

Informing Farmer Doug

Given a choice, I'd much prefer to have a dozen root canals than explain ONE MORE plight of idiocy to my friend Farmer Doug. So, sheepishly and cowardly I sent him a TEXT message..."Tractor stuck...HELP!" (Call me a chicken if you must, but it was a heck of a lot better than head-to-head admission!)

Minutes passed, then a half hour...still no reply from Farmer Doug. I remarked to Kay, "Well, that's it...he's done with me. As Popeye always said, 'That's all I can stand, 'cause I can't stands no more!' I've finally driven Doug over the cliff!" Gently, tenderly she said, "Doug can fix it, you'll see."

Staring into the Eye of the Tiger

When we arrived Downtown Spruce Pine I told Kay, "You feel free to check

out the festival while I face the music with Doug." She patted my back and wished me luck.

Farmer
Doug was peddling homemade Harrell
Hill Farms
molasses out
of his truck
bed as I made
my tentative, stealth
approach. I
walked briskly



toward him, then slowed to a mere snail's pace...unsure how he would receive me. His eyes did double duty as he looked at a molasses buyer with one eye while peering at me over his glasses with the other. Uh oh!

The customer left and I did the only thing I knew to do...I swooped in on Farmer Doug and gave him a bear hug \odot . "Pollard, I had to laugh when I got your TEXT message," he began. Poised to strike and defend myself, suddenly the air exploded from my lungs; as if a hot air balloon expelled it's lift. "Doug, I was trying to get the tractor..." He put his arm around my shoulders, drew me close and

continued on page 30

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Partner's Aligned Toward Health

Sizzlin' Summer Series Thanks for a Fun Summer!

By Schell McCall, Executive Director Yancey County

Burnsville, NC (9/20/18) - This summer was one for the books! The Sizzlin' Summer Series had an outstanding turnout of over 850 participants. The Sizzlin' Summer series, co-sponsored by Healthy Yancey, the Town of Burnsville, and Yancey

County Government, was a chance for people of all ages and abilities to try new things, be active, and connect to neighbors and our larger community.

This year's series was filled with fun, free activities to engage families across Yancey and neighboring counties. Activities included a zip line on the Town Square, ballroom dancing, soccer, and the ever popular inflatable slip and slide. In addition to the many fun-filled activities, the series also hosted a car seat safety

checking station, as well as several AMY Bookmobile appearances.

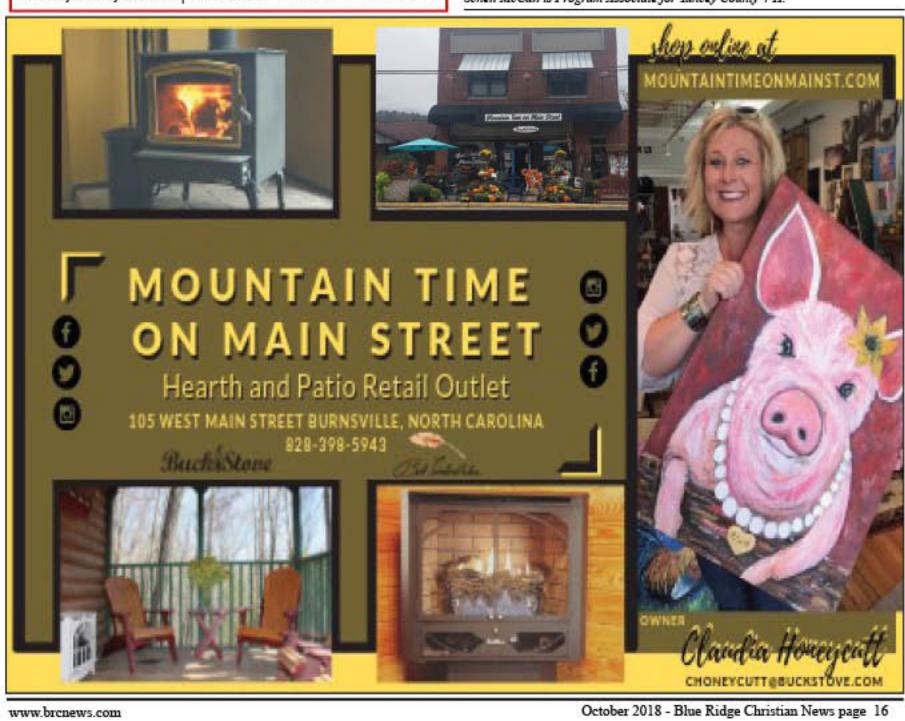
Through this initiative, Partners Aligned Toward Health and Healthy Yancey are creating a wonderful legacy for the youth that will continue well into the future with programs encouraging lifelong physical activity. On our end-of-summer survey, 70% of participants agreed that the Sizzlin' Summer Series encouraged them to be physically active this summer. The Sizzlin' Summer Series is also an economic development initiative that leads to additional downtown business traffic during each event. Nearly 70% of participants visited the Farmer's Market and 85% of participants also visited neighboring businesses or restaurants while downtown for the series.

A special thank you goes out to our Title Sponsor, Blue Ridge Regional Health, and our corporate sponsors, Resourceful Communities, Smoker &

One Sizzlin' Summer Series participant made her own t-shirt to commemorate the zipline event!

Folkner Family Practice, and the Town of Burnsville and Yancey County. For more information on our Sizzlin' Summer Series and future activities, see our Facebook page, contact 682-7899 or email brianna@pathwnc.org.

Schell McCall is Program Associate for Yancey County 4-H.



Gardner-Webb University

Headline: Putting Faith into Practice

By Dr. Tracy Jessup

"But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, ongoing away, immediately forget what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act-they will be blessed in their doing." - James 1:22-26



Most people know what the Heimlich Maneuver is, even if they do not know how to perform it. The anti-choking first-aid technique is designed to dislodge an obstruction from a person's windpipe. One does this by applying sudden strong pressure on the abdomen, between the navel and the rib cage. While I have never witnessed this maneuver in person or had the technique used on me, I have seen it in movies and have known people who credit the technique with saving their lives.

The Heimlich Maneuver was developed by Dr. Henry J. Heimlich, a thoracic surgeon who crusaded for the anti-choking technique. Reports vary as to the number of lives saved since the Heimlich maneuver was invented in 1974, but in a December 2016 article that reported the death of Dr. Heimlich at the age of 96, the New York Times estimated the number at 100,000.

That same article recalled how earlier that year, "Dr. Heimlich used it himself on May 23 to save the life of an 87-year-old woman choking on a morsel of meat at Deupree House, their senior residence in Cincinnati. He said it was the first time he had ever used the maneuver in an emergency, although he had made a similar claim in 2003" (Robert McFadden, "Dr. Henry J. Heimlich, Famous for Antichoking Technique, Dies at 96," 12/17/16).

In James 1:19-27, James takes the broad appeal to obey the Word of God and applies it to areas of Christian living, specifically the integrity of our thought and speech and the integrity of our actions. It is of the utmost importance that our speech and our actions be informed by faith. As followers of Christ, we not only are to listen to God's Word and take it in, but we also must express it and carry it out. We must be hearers and doers of God's Word

James says those who hear the gospel and do not put it into practice "are like those who look at themselves in a mirror" and "immediately forget what they were like." Commenting on this passage, New Testament scholar Beverly Gaventa writes, "What is seen in a mirror must be viewed again and again, because the impression is gone as soon as one looks away. By contrast, the 'perfect law, the law of liberty,' enables people to live with what they see and to live out what they believe." (Texts for Preaching, p. 491).

Prayer: Lord, help us to act on your truth as we hear it, rather than letting it go in one ear and out the other.

Located in the North Carolina foothills, Gardner-Webb University is a private, Christian, liberal arts university that prepares students to become critical thinkers, effective leaders and compassionate servants in the global community. Emphasizing a strong student-centered experience and rigorous academics, Gardner-Webb ignites learning and service opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students. Ignite your future at Gardner-Webb.edu.

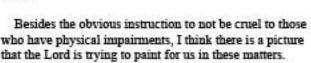
Dr. Tracy Jessup serves as vice president for Christian Life and Service and senior minister to the University. He is a graduate of Gardner-Webb with a B.A. in Music and earned his M. Div. degree at Samford University's Beeson Divinity School. He completed his Ph.D. at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He also teaches in the undergraduate department of religious studies and enjoys the op-

Walnut Grove Church

Stumbling Block or Stepping Stone

By Pastor Kurt Bomar Avery County

Lev. 19:14 " 'Do not curse the deaf or put a stumbling block in front of the blind, but fear your God. I am the



Physical impairments can be a picture of a spiritual impairment that causes the world to not see or not want to hear about Jesus.

Let's consider how Jesus himself dealt with a deaf person:

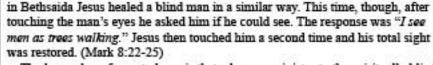
Mark 7:32 There some people brought to him a man who was deaf and could hardly talk, and they begged Jesus to place his hand on him. 33 After he took him aside, away from the crowd, Jesus put his fingers into the man's ears. Then he spit and touched the man's tongue. 34 He looked up to heaven and with a deep sigh said to him, "Ephphatha!" (which means "Be opened!"). 35 At this, the man's ears were opened, his tongue was loosened and he began to speak plainly.

Notice the things that Jesus does. First he removes the man from the crowd and gives him individual attention. This alone would mean a lot to a man who had be ignored his whole life. Next he touches the man's ears and tongue. If he had merely spoken healing to the man, the man would never have heard it and would have missed the connection Jesus was making with him. Thus, Jesus was relat-

ing to the man where he was. By touching him prior to the healing the man got to be part of the process and to know that something profound was about to happen.

And it did. When Jesus then spoke, the man's ears were opened. Likewise, when you and I speak the Word of God, spiritually deaf ears are opened as well.

Next our verse tells us not to trip the blind. One day



The lesson here for us to learn is that when we minister to the spiritually blind, it may not work the first time. But we are not to give up. We may help someone go from total darkness to seeing shadows of the truth even if they don't fully comprehend God's grace at once. As we continue to show the love of God we may have the pleasure of watching the scales drop off their eyes. Regardless, the point is to keep on touching the spiritually blind and deaf. We can then sit back and watch God do his part.

Selah, (think about it)







Josh DOBSON

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God's voice rumbled in the darkness As the sound broke thru the air. Never had there been such strength Or demonstration of His power.

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Living creatures great and small Birds of every kind and feather Ocean waters filled with life Clouds forming in changing weather.

Creator God looked down that day And smiled for it was good He'd planned it all so perfectly As only our Father could.

The sun was brightly shinning It's light gave sight to man How awesome is our Father Ere since the world began.

Joyce (Joy) Harwood Baldwin





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



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Bridge42 Church

Integrity: The Way Forward

By Jason Koon Burke County

Sometimes I worry that I'm always pointing out problems and never offering solutions. One reason is that, to some extent, it's probably true. I am an old punk rocker from the nineties, I grew up on rebellion and discontent; always seeing problems, but never seeking solutions. There is something spiritual about



being discontent in this present age, but there is nothing holy about rebellion and

apathy. So how do we move forward?

First, the Church needs to know who it is. The average Southern Baptist Church has 340 members, but only 130 regular attenders, and most Evangelical denominations are in similar shape. The fact is that most Churches have a lot of lost people on their rolls, or at least Christians who don't even take their faith seriously enough to show up on Sunday.

In Acts 1, Jesus instructs the Disciples to do nothing until the coming of the Holy Spirit because He knew it wouldn't work without the Spirit's power. We are in a similar situation today, the only way to regain power and vitality in the Church is to make sure we have a membership that is filled with the Spirit.

Churches must exercise Church Discipline, update rolls, and be discerning in the membership process. Members must take ownership, not of their Church, but of their place in God's Church. I'm not talking about the color of the carpet or the volume of the music, I'm talking about each member taking seriously their place in God's Mission to the world through the Church.

Second, we must address the fact that many Christians don't understand many of the basic tenants of the faith. Why is this?

If your Church is like most American Churches, you probably don't have a discipleship plan, so this is how discipleship usually happens. In Sunday School, you study the faithfulness of God in Obadiah and then in worship, the pastor teaches about Christian unity from Nehemiah. Next week it's four aspects of the Holy Spirit from Acts, and the next it's three methods for overcoming temptation

You may not see where I'm going with this, because it probably sounds normal, but there's a big problem with what I call "the popcorn approach." If Discipleship happens like this, it's probably going to be accidental because there is no systematic pipeline for learning biblical truth and applying it to life. There is no pathway to maturity because a new believer isn't learning truth in a way that it builds and leads into practical application for daily life.

You may be wondering how we can fit all this into a Sunday Morning. We can't. It is going to take intentional life-on-life discipleship; the kind of Discipleship the Apostle Paul describes in Titus 2 when he instructs older men and women to model righteousness and holiness to the next generation. It has to be bigger than Sundays and Wednesdays.

Third, the Church must learn to take itself seriously. We are not a social club, and because we have seen ourselves this way for too long, our Churches are one of the biggest factors driving Americans away from Jesus. We must learn to live out the faith we profess, not to earn salvation, but out of gratitude for what God has done for us, and a desire to see the world come to know Jesus through us. Again, we are not a social club, we are an army. We have not come to conquer the American political process with rhetoric, we have come to conquer God's world with His love and forgiveness. Let's be people who live with passion and purpose, who recognize the mission God has called us to.

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







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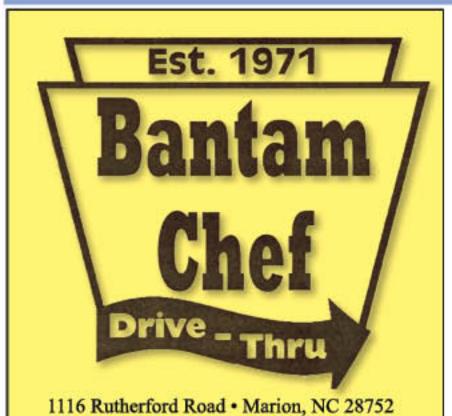
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Obedient Heart Fellowship

Only Believe?

By Jim Huskins McDowell County

On June 30, 1859, a French born acrobat using the stage name Charles Blondin stretched a manilla rope across Niagara Falls and walked from the U.S. to Canada. After a brief rest, he walked back. Tens of thousands reportedly watched him.

On August 17, 1859, Blondin made the same walk. At least ten thousand awaited him on the Canadian side. The crowd cheered in unison: "Blondin, Blondin,

Blondin..." He raised his hands for silence and shouted, "I am Blondin, do you believe in me?"

The throng roared back, "We believe, we believe!"

"I'm going to walk back across, but this time I will carry someone on my back. Do you believe I can do it?" shouted Blondin.

"We believe, we believe," came the thunderous response.

"Who then," queried Blondin, "will be that person?" The response was a deafening silence. Ten thousand shouted "we believe." One volunteered.

Western Christians are divorced from the fact that the Bible is a Hebrew story, written by Hebrews, and impossible to understand without a Hebrew perspective. Hebrew thinking is concrete. It views the world through the senses. Greek thinking is abstract. It views the world through the mind.

This difference is critical in the matter of faith. A Greek thinker—any of us reads the words: "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you shall be saved" and assumes that "believing" is mere mental assent to the "fact" that Jesus is the Son of God. Thousands "believed" that Blondin could cross Niagara Falls on a tight rope carrying someone on his back.

That kind of "faith" is not even thinkable in Hebrew. The language has no such word. In Hebrew thought, "belief" requires "obedience." A Hebrew could never say to Blondin, "I believe that you can walk that rope while carrying someone on your back" without immediately climbing on to be the one carried. Anything less is not "faith" in Hebrew thinking. Jesus' brother, who wrote the book of James, nails this concept when he says that faith without works is dead. He was a Hebrew. He understood that God's people cannot "believe" without "obeying."

How strange it is that so many "modern Christians" have come to the conclusion that "faith in Christ" requires no action whatsoever. We are: "Saved by grace through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast," but we stop reading at that point and ignore the thunderous implications of verse 10 of Ephesians 2: "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." Of course, works of obedience have nothing to do with our salvation, but at the same time, salvation by grace is pointless—James says it is impossible—unless it leads to obedience. 1 John 2:3-4 spells it out: "And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him."

Obedient Heart Fellowship is a small group with a simple goal: to know and obey the Word of God. We believe the entire Bible is both true and applicable to our lives. We believe that the instructions for living which God revealed through Moses on Mt. Sinai were—as He stated many times—a permanent covenant between God and His people. We believe that Jesus was telling the truth when he said: "For verily I say unto you, till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled." We believe that all who claim to follow Christ must walk as he walked, and He walked in obedience to The Father's instructions. We do not believe that a few, out-of-context verses from Paul and the Book of Acts somehow invalidate everything God taught through Moses, the prophets, Jesus and the Apostles.

We meet each week on the Sabbath—the seventh day of the week—to worship the One who is "The same yesterday, today, and forever," and to learn together how we can do a better job of following Him in obedience. Our meeting place is Abba's House at 72 South Main in Marion, NC. Our meeting time is 10:00 A.M., and we always eat together as part of our worship.

Our door is open to all who desire to cultivate Obedient Hearts.

Jim is the Pastor of Obedient Heart Fellowship Church in Marion, NC.

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Evergreen Church

Need for Standard

By Rev John McCoury Roan Mountain, Tennessee

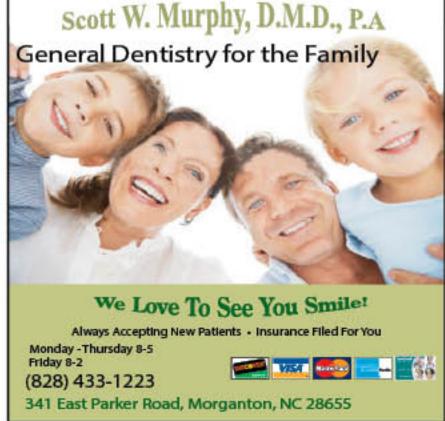
I am the Lord, who brought you up out of Egypt to be your God; therefore, be holy, because I am holy. Lev 11:45 In this section we face the need for a standard, a measuring stick by which we can distinguish between good and evil. That is not easy to do. Modern philosophies tell us that there is really nothing harmful, that it is only our perverted thinking which

makes things wrong, and that if we would but change our thinking then anything and everything is right. But you don't find anything like that in Scripture. The Bible tells us that we are living in a world where truth and error are inextricably mixed and that you cannot easily tell one from the other. How do you tell the difference before it is too late, before you have to learn through sorrows and sadness? With these Israelites, His concern was expressed on the physical level — He actually regulated their diet. In this chapter, you have dietary laws distinguishing clean animals from unclean, and various sanitary practices are included as well. Many of these practices have a commonsense basis in staying healthy. God kept his people physically whole through many of these regulations. There was nothing wrong with many of the animals which were prohibited to the Israelites as food. Their prohibition was simply to teach a symbolic lesson, even though they may have been perfectly healthy as food. In this case it is the symbolism that we must take into account. There was nothing wrong with many of the animals which were prohibited to the Israelites as food. They were prohibited only because the prohibition taught a symbolic lesson. Many of these animals, therefore, were perfectly alright for food, but were prohibited solely because they taught a symbolic lesson. It is this symbolism that we are interested in. We have seen in this book that this word holy essentially means whole. To be holy is to be a complete person, to fulfill your humanity. A whole person is one who performs the function for which he was originally designed. In the case of man, that is for us to belong to God, to be his image. It is to be the vehicle for the expression of his life. This is what he wants for us. He wants us to be whole and to fulfill our humanity. That is what God is after. It is not the religious activities you go through, nor how much time you spend in Bible study that God is really interested in. He is after the expression of his character in the midst of where you work, and in your home, and among your family and your neighbors and your friends. He desires that the character which comes through to others from you is that of love and joy and peace, and of tenderheartedness and willingness to forgive and forbearance and understanding, and of the absence of grudge-holding and bitterness and hatred and enmity. That is the character of a whole person. So, God says to us, therefore be holy... and avoid these things that I have warned you against, for they will but defile you. Lord, help me to take these guidelines seriously. Help me to be obedient to you and to offer my body as a living sacrifice. I long to be a whole person though I live in the midst of a broken world. Life Application: Secular thinking is largely adrift in the turbulent waters of relativity, in stark contrast to the teaching of the Bible, which aims at our wholeness. Are we being nurtured in body, soul and spirit by feeding on God's Word?

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







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No Regrets Family

Discovering My Child's Interest

By Pastor Dean Honeycutt Mitchell County

It is hard living a life of "no regrets." It seems like the harder I try the harder life becomes. I am so thankful God is a gracious God. If the three-strike rule applied to me I would have been out a long time ago. It is not so much the things that I am doing that I regret, but the things I am not doing that bother me the most.

For example, this time "flying" by is getting way out of

hand. The older I get the less I get done and the faster time goes. I still have a preteen at home and I realize I need to spend more time with him. This is one thing I am not doing that I regret. I need to spend more time with my son.

At times it is hard to find that one thing that you really enjoy doing with your child. If it is sports, then that can be easily accomplished. You go out and play ball with them. If it is hunting or fishing you go to the river or into the woods. But what about the child whose hobbies or interest are different than your own? Or the child whose interest you have not discovered. It is amazing at the number of parents who push their child into sports but, the child is just not interested in catching a ball.

Just in the past few years Pam and I were introduced to the 4-H club-- it is amazing how many different interest groups they have for children. They have sewing, archery, shooting sports, livestock, poultry, robotics, and many other interest hobbies kids love to do. Sometimes you must try a variety of things with your child to see where their interest lies. It took me a while to figure this out. I just assumed since I loved sports my child would grow up and play in the super

I found that when I went to a livestock show with "Buttercup" my son's limousine heifer we had a great time. (Not me and Buttercup, but me and my family Lol) I was not much of a farmer growing up, but my son loves goats, cows, and chickens. His interest became our interest. When I went to a shooting contest with my son's shooting club, we had a great time. The 4-H shooting club led to my son giving a speech and being elected an officer which brought him so much joy, I am telling you as much joy as my daughter scoring a soccer goal. It is all the same. Would I be as excited for them if their interest were sewing or cooking? I guess I will find out soon, because we are starting a sewing ministry at Snow Hill that I am very excited about. Our women's Bible study group are making baby blankets for Tri-county pregnancy center, and some of our young ladies will be introduced to sewing for the very first time. Who knows? We might find a wonderful young seamstress, and a talent that a person never new they had.

The point is to not be afraid to try new things with your child even if they are not your interest they may very well be your child's. You will receive joy out of seeing your child do something he likes to do. When you do these things together you both will have a great time. Imagine how our Father in heaven feels when we use our talents for His glory. When we discover what we are good at and use it for God's glory we have a sense of purpose and meaning. How wonderful it is to help our child discover their interest and then teach them to use those talents for God's greater glory.

Parenting is not easy, but it is so rewarding. Watching your children grow into responsible, loving, and Christ following adults is joy that we can not describe. Pam and I are so proud of our children, and we thank God that he loaned them to us and trusted us with their care.

God bless you and we love you.

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

Crossnore School & Children's Home

Crossnore Ceo Named To North Carlina Child Well-Being Transformation Council By Holly Solomon Avery County

Crossnore School & Children's Home is pleased to amounce the appointment of Chief Executive Officer, Brett A. Loftis, JD to the North Carolina Child Well-Being Transformation Council. Loftis was appointed by Senator Philip E. Berger, President Pro Tempore of the North Carolina Senate. His term begins on September 1, 2018 and runs through June 30, 2018.



North Carolina House Bill 630 was enacted in 2017 to establish a regional system of oversight and collaboration within the Department of Social Services. The bill created a workgroup, now known as the North Carolina Child Well-Being Transformation Council, which will develop a plan for establishing regional offices for the administration of social services at the local level.

The Council will divide its work into two stages. The first stage of the Council's work will address the regionalization of the current county system. "There are so many state agencies dealing with the needs of children," said Karen McLeod, President and CEO of Benchmarks NC. "The problem is that these siloed approaches do not address the needs of the whole child. The Council will provide the coordination, collaboration, and

communication among agencies and organizations providing public services to these children."

The second stage of the Council's work will address interagency collaboration. Loftis was appointed to the Council to represent the organizations that provide these services to children. McLeod contimued, "Mr. Loftis' role as CEO of Crossnore School & Children's Home gives him incredible insight



into what is working and where the disconnects are between the systems that are not serving our children as well as they need to." Throughout his tenure with the Council, Loftis will be a voice for the people on the ground serving North Carolina's children. His goal for the Council is that the members will work together to provide a research-based continuum of services for these children which give them the best opportunity to heal.

About Crossnore School & Children's Home: For more than 100 years, Crossnore School & Children's Home has served children and families through group residential services, community-based family foster care and adoptions, and outpatient and schoolbased clinical services. For more information about Crossnore School & Children's Home, please visit www.crossnore.org,

About Brett A. Loftis, JD: As Crossnore's CEO, Loftis leads an organization dedicated to growing healthy futures for children and families. Under his leadership, Crossnore completed a capital campaign to increase their endowment in 2015, built new cottages on their Avery County campus in 2016, successfully merged with The Children's Home in Winston-Salem in 2017, and opened a satellite office in early 2018 to serve the Hendersonville area. Loftis also serves on numerous boards and speaks nationally regarding child welfare. He is currently Chair of the Board of Trustees for Benchmarks NC.

Holly Solomon is Director of Communications for The Crossnore School. She blogs several times a week at www.hollybarrett.org, and is host and producer of "Living a Redeemed Life," a bi-weekly podcast.



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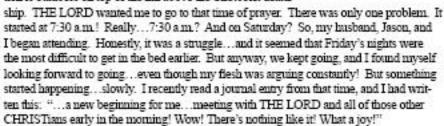
CHRISTian Prayer Meeting

Joys of Prayer

By Mrs. Monica Henley-Kritz Mitchell County

"O GOD, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is;" Psalm 63:1

In 2015, a group of CHRISTians gathered every Saturday morning to pray for our area. This was also in preparation for the Tent Crusade, held by Preacher Ralph Sexton. The location is outdoors on top of the hill above the Chevrolet dealer-



We began meeting new people ... people we normally wouldn't see, because some travel from other counties. And what a blessing... a time of prayer, a time of sharing, hearts joined together by CHRIST, and a moving of THE HOLY SPIRIT! One morning was especially special to me. It was a cloudy and dark morning, and Jason and I were the only ones there. I wrote about it in my journal: "Jason and I prayed. THE LORD held back the rain. THE HOLY SPIRIT fell!!! We cried and prayed. Got back in the car, and it was as if I could not leave! Then, here came a flock of geese, flying in formation, circling the area...they landed and were even swimming somewhat in the large puddles. It was just as real as YOU, LORD, saying, 'Please don't leave!' That absolutely broke and melted my heart! That THE LORD wants to meet with 'little, evil, wicked' me...wow...how humbling!!! Much tears! Good and cleansing. Refreshing. I had been focusing on 'when the geese leave, I can leave.' How sad and petty of me! Once I got my eyes onto JESUS and HIS Word, I nearly forgot about the geese. How beautiful!!! {THE LORD reminded me that I rush in and out of HIS Presence too often! LORD, forgive me!!!}"

Now, three years later, we are still meeting on the hill...praying...the first Saturday of every month. We never know what the weather will be...but really, it is not important. We have met with a beautiful sunrise...sometimes, with rain and umbrellas...and sometimes, a few snow flurries and wind and very cold temperatures. But every time, THE LORD has come. HE has never failed to be there. And we never know what beautiful thing will happen next. So, if you want something new and fresh in your walk with GOD, come the first Saturday of every month. Meet with us. Pray. Watch what GOD will do...for our county, for our state, for our nation, and yes...for you!

"I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me." Provetts 8:17

Mrs. Monica Henley-Kritz, Prayer Coordinator for the Association." And I am a member of Crabtree Chapel Baptist Church now, where Jason is the pastor.





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~ Anne Richardson



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Marlene's Meditations

The Value of a Lunch Box

By Marlene Houk Burke County

Psalm 23:5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Rushing down the short flight of steps, the sevenyear-old scampered into the kitchen where his mom was packing lunch. "Mom," he asked, "can I take dad's

lunch box today?" Glancing down, his mom noticed the battered and dented box hanging from his thumb. "Sure," she said. "Dad liked that box and used it often." My niece waited patiently in the pick-up line at school that afternoon and watched her son emerge, swinging the box. A teacher approached. "Hi. He loved opening his Star Wars lunch box and talking about it to his friends today. Did you know that's a valuable antique? You could sell it for as much as \$ 3,000.00. You might want to keep it in a safe place."

Sometimes, we realize the value of common objects such as my niece did years ago when her young son wanted to play with his dad's favorite lunch box. A recent hunch with my friend reminded me of this story. As the waitress asked if we needed a to-go box, the Holy Spirit nudged me. Our delicious meal and satisfying visit with a few tasty morsels packed in our to-go box reminded me of a spiritual message.

When we feast on God's Word and enjoy the soul-satisfying pleasure of His presence, we have the privilege of taking those blessings into the day with us. The Holy Spirit tucks them lovingly in to the priceless and extremely valuable lunch-box of our heart for soul-snacking throughout the day. As we share with others throughout the day from the abundance of God's table, the rich nutrients from our time with the Lord is multiplied much like John's story of the lad with five loaves and two fishes (John 6:9-14). Finally, we can eat the dessert of His promises, fulfilling our palette for the sweetness of His love toward us! The Bible relates our spiritual feasting on His Word to food in the Bible, and the analogy comes to

life as we enjoy an incredible array of physical foods today.

Pack into the hunch box of your heart today the meaty doctrines of the Bible, the nutrition-packed vegetables of the stories that are full of the messages to make our spiritual



bones and muscles strong for His glory. Drink the Living Water and discover His refreshing sweetness. And, don't forget to satisfy your sweet tooth with the passages that are filled with His love and promises.

Warman's Lunch Box Field Guide is a 514-page book that lists the value of lunch boxes. The 2008 edition lists this Star Trek lunch box with thermos in mint condition as \$ 3,000. Sometimes, we don't know the value of something so common that we don't see it anymore. While you're searching for those old lunch boxes at the back of the toy bin from 50 years ago, search your heart. And follow the command of Proverbs 4:23 to "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life." Protect the lunch box of your heart so that it can be filled with delights from His Word to nourish and strengthen you forever! Share the goodies in your spiritual lunch box with others so they can pass the goodness along. Enjoy the lunch that the Holy Spirit has provided for you today packed into the priceless lunchbox of your heart!

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



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

Bits 'n Pieces

Avery County

Avery County Events: October 20-21, 2018 --- 41st Annual Woolly Worm Festival in downtown Banner Elk.

Burke County

Bethlehem Baptist Church in Morganton NC off of Watershed Rd. We are having a BBQ and gospel singing for community outreach. There is no charge. First Saturday in October 2018 is the date 10/6/18 Brown Mountain

Baptist Church in Morganton NC—Fall Festival on Saturday, Oct 20th starting at 4:00pm. We will have games, crafts, food, singing, trunk or treat and a hayride For more info call 828-4487254 or 828-234-2677.

Burke County Chamber

Southern Expo & Marketplace Thursday, November 15, 2018—3:30-5:30 member to member networking then 5:30 -7:30 Open to the Public the Waldensian Mill, Valdese, NC

NCSD Foundation—Bears Classic Golf Tournament Oct 5th, Captain Choice Scramble Check in at 11 am---12:30 pm Shotgun Star Silver Creek Plantation. \$75.00 per person includes lunch, dinner, green fees, gifts, range balls and cart. For more info contact Heath Huggins at 828-475-0718.

Catawba River Baptist Association - We are happy to be partnering with pastor Pandu Maddala of Victory Baptist Association as he works with pastors in India to reach communities for Jesus. Most pastors in India pastor more than one church and they walk wherever they go. They are in need of 100 bicycles to help 100 pastors take the Word of God from village to village. The Catawba River Association is working to meet this need through the gifts of churches and individuals. If you, your Church, or Sunday School class would like to donate a bike (pedals for pastors) please send a check for \$80 to CRBA and put on the memo line "Pedals for Pastors". Every dollar collected will be sent to India and will be used to purchase bicycles. Please send all donations to 1812 US 70 E., Morganton, NC.

We will be collecting coats this year to be distributed to those in need in New York City. Please bring new or gently used coats (no holes, tears or stains) to our CRBA office in Morganton. We will collect coats during the months of September and October and will deliver them to a drop off location in North Carolina (Fruitland Baptist Bible College) who will then deliver (and distribute) them in New York. Again, if you bring used coats please make sure they are in great shape.

Great Hope Seventh Day Adventist Church COOKING FOR HEALTH AND JOY is 4 basic classes for whole food plant based cooking on Mondays, October 1-22, 6:00 pm. Food demonstrations, food samples, handouts, door prizes and fun with Sharryn Mahorney and others! \$20 covers all 4 classes. Great Hope Seventh-day Adventist Church, 2907 US Hwy 70 in Drexel across from Foothills Thrift Store. Pre-register by calling 828-334-0084.

The APPEARING. Are you ready? A FREE event about end-time Bible prophecies coming October 11-14 with Shawn Boonstra. Since the beginning of recorded time, cultures across the globe have predicted the end of our world. As global unrest and natural disasters across the planet build in intensity and frequency, many are left wondering if the time is near. Join Shawn Boonstra from the Voice of Prophecy as he explores the myths and facts that surround the Appearing—an event mentioned over 2,500 times in the Bible. Great Hope Seventh-day Adventist Church, 2907 US Hwy 70 in Drexel across from Foothills Thrift Store. Free Admission, Free study guides, Free book!

Morganton Seventh-day Adventist-Burke County

FREE Car and Truck Show, October 7th-Sunday from 1-4 p.m.

Show Location: Morganton Seventh-day Adventist Church, 2187 Jamestown
Road, Morganton, N.C. 28655 Hosted by ARC-www.adventistrodderschub.com
John Earnhardt's personal micro midget will be on display, built in 1956 and
worked on by Ralph Earnhardt. Awards for "who drove the farthest"

Six Trophy Classes - You Choose: Old Style Car & Truck, New Style Car & Truck
Unique Style Car & Truck, Participant Voting Only, Free Door Prizes
Fun for the whole family! All are welcome! For more information, please call
John Root at 904-654-2885 - If it rolls...it shows!

The Morganton Seventh-day Adventist Church's Community Service Thrift Store, located at 402 East Main Street in Glen Alpine, N.C., is temporary closed. We are revamping the thrift store and turning it into a boutique! When we re-open we will be offering gently used / brand new clothes of all sizes and for all ages! As well as, furniture and small home goods! More information on the grand reopening will be announced at a later date.

God's Closet - Morganton FREE Shop Day will take place on Sunday, November 4th., from 2:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. There will be FREE children's clothing, shoes and bedding. No documentation required. We do ask that all shoppers pay a \$1.00 entry fee.

Town of Valdese Held Annually the second Saturday in November from 9am to 4pm at the Old Rock School Over 35 Handmade Craft Gift Vendors Entry \$1 or a Can Good Donation for Burke United Christian Ministries First 250 Shoppers will receive a complimentary shopping tote from the Historic Valdese Foundation Enjoy an Open House at the Piedmont & Western Railroad Museum, Refreshments & Door Prizes.

McDowell County

CarePartners: Want to make a difference, touch lives, and impact your community? If so, several Volunteer opportunities are available in the following positions! Administrative Office Volunteer, Patient/Family Support Volunteer, Bereavement Support Volunteer, We Honor Veterans Volunteer, Special Events Volunteer, and a newly added position, Pastoral Care Volunteer! For more information about these positions, please contact CarePartners Hospice and Palliative Care McDowell Volunteer Services Department at 828-652-1318 ext.303. You can make an everlasting impact with just a few hours of your time a week! Call today to learn more!

Cross United Methodist Church - New Community Outreach Benefits McDowell Families with Children - Teens for Christ B.E.A.R. Closet (Baby Equipment and Resource Closet)

Beginning Wednesday, August 1st, 2018 the youth group at Cross United Methodist Church located at 85 West Cross Street in Marion will launch a new outreach ministry benefiting families with children The outreach will be open the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month 4:00 to 6:30 p.m. and the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. For more information or if you are interested in volunteer opportunities call (828) 803-8790 or email TeensforChristBEARcloset@yahoo.com.

First Baptist of Marion - Belize Mission Trip February 5-12, 2019 FBC's relationship with the Baptists of Belize will continue this winter by sending a mission team to work in the western region of the country. Our construction crew will continue work on the Santa Elena Baptist Primary School, helping complete a second story addition. The medical team will provide free medical clinics to underserved communities near the Guatemalan Border, where there is a large immigrant population. Our team will stay in Santa Elena at the Aguada Hotel. The week will end with two nights at San Pedro on the coast. Funds to cover our ministry costs are already raised. However, each team member provides their own travel costs, which is estimated at \$1,100 per person, covering airfare, ground transportation, lodging, international travel insurance, T-shirt, and most meals. For more detailed information, promotional flyers are available near the Chapel or see Scott Hagaman. A minimum of 10 persons are needed to launch this mission trip with a maximum number of 25. A valid passport is required, which should not expire within 6 months of travel. Registration Form and \$100

Mitchell County

Bear Creek Baptist Church - Women's Prayer Breakfast Oct 12th ,8:00am at DT's.

Celebrate Recovery

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

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

Main Street Spruce Pine - Downtown Spruce Pine Greenlee Mapping Day, Oct. TBD, --Downtown Spruce Pine Antique Festival, Oct. 13,-- Downtown Spruce Pine Potter's Market, Oct. 13-14,-- Cross Street Building Merchant Trick or Treat, Oct. 31, --Downtown Spruce Pine Small Business Saturday, Nov. 24,-- Downtown Spruce Pine Kiwanis Christmas Parade, Nov. 24,-- Downtown Spruce Pine TRAC Studio Tour, Nov. 30-Dec. 2, Mitchell-Yancey counties For more information about any of these events, call SPMS at 828-765-3008.

Mitchell County Baptist Association - From Liberty Hill Baptist Church: A Day To Remember---Marriage Retreat featuring Stan and Tammy Budd presenting the Art of Marriage by Family Life. Saturday Oct 6, 2018 8:30am-4:30pm Catered breakfast and lunch provided. At the Cross Street Commerce Center at 31 Cross St, Spruce Pine, NC Registration is \$35.00 per couple Contact Meg Dale at 828-467-4002.

Mitchell County Chamber - We are also adding local and regional events to the Airbnb site so that visitors seeking a place to stay here in our area can also see the great events happening that they can take part in! If you are an Airbnb host, you can also add events!

Tipton Hill High School Students—All Students and their families are invited to attend the 2018 Reunion on Saturday, October 27th at 1:30 pm in Johnson City, TN at the Depot located at 920 North State of Franklin Rd in the new Food City Store. Please RSVP before Oct. 10th, \$20.00 per person to: Paul Bennett at 220 Ridgeview Lane, Bakersville, NC 28705. Call 828-385-0490

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

Walk A Mile In Her Shoes Returns! - Spruce Pine Assistant Fire, Chief Mike Clougherty, and Mitchell County Sheriff, Donald Street, square off to see who can raise the most money for Walk A Mile In Her Shoes!

Bits 'n Pieces

Saturday October 6, 2018 in Central Park on Locust St Spruce Pine, NC For more info contact Beth Davis at 828-765-4015.

Yancey County

Parkway Playhouse - The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged) [Revised] is a delightful romp featuring all 37 of Shakespeare's plays, meant to be performed in 97 minutes, by three actors. Fast paced, witty, and physical, it's full of laughter for Shakespeare lovers and haters alike. Tickets are available now at parkwayplayhouse.com, or by calling 828-682-4285. Ending on Oct. 6th.

Higgins Memorial Kairos Training.....Training for the Kairos Walk at Mountain View Correctional facility starts August 18th. There are three training Saturdays and participants must do two of the three. This is a desperate plea to have more people from our church sign up to participate. Without more help we will have to severely limit the number of inmates that we can bring the love of Jesus Christ to. The walk will be October 18-21. For more information contact Jim Swaim at 284-0299 or Peirce Bingham at 208-0299...

Shoals Creek Baptist Church - Oct 6, 2018 AIM TRUE Men's Conference 10am to 3pm (I will send you a fiyer in another email) Sunday Oct 21, 2018 Prayer Shawl Ministry Soup and Salad Fundraiser immediately following the morning worship service (more info on our FB page), Fall Festival Oct 27, 2018 4 to 6 pm, Wed. Oct 17, 2018 WMU meal with guest Patrick Ballard of Mountaineer Ministries- he will play, sing, and share about his assisted living facilities ministry in Western NC- love offering to be received.

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

Class One: Business Building Tips from a Local Master Potter (2 Hours)
Established local artists, Jon Ellenbogen and Rebecca Plummer have been successfully operating "The Barking Spider Pottery" in Penland for over 40 years.
In this class, explore topics such as establishing credibility, record keeping, tax considerations, insurance strategies, business practices, operating a co-operative gallery, creating your own crafts show and much more!

9/26, W, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Fee Waived Ellenbogen

TRAC Art Resource Center, Spruce Pine 828.766.1295

Class Two: Marketing Your Art (2 Hours)

From the Asheville River Arts District, successful studio owner and professional artist, Matt Tommey is well known for creating beautiful handmade baskets. In this seminar, Matt will share marketing techniques that will create new customers and build sales.

10/3, W, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Fee Waived Tommey

TRAC Art Resource Center, Spruce Pine 828.766.1295

Class Three: How to Find Your Customers (2 Hours)

Who are your customers and how do you find them? This class will cover local area traffic count data and trends related to the types of customers that will frequent your business. Class will analyze tourists, seasonal residents, and locals buying habits and trends. This data will enable you to determine your buying customer and build a customer profile from which to effectively operate and market your studio.

10/10, W, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Fee Waived Cook

TRAC Art Resource Center, Spruce Pine 828.766.1295

Class Four: Artist Bookkeeping Basics (2 Hours)

Gain insight into the best bookkeeping methods to manage your studio business. CPA, Kenneth Beam will discuss best practices for financial management and various accounting options to fit your style of business.

10/17, W, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Fee Waived Beam

TRAC Art Resource Center, Spruce Pine 828.766.1295

Class Five: Art Business Tax Guide (2 Hours)

Understanding taxes can be a challenge for many business owners. This seminar will focus on common tax requirements for artists. CPA, Alicia Sisk-Morris will help you make sense of it all.

10/24, W, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Fee Waived Sisk-Morris

TRAC Art Resource Center, Spruce Pine 828.766.1295

DIGITAL MARKETING AND SALES CLASSES:

#HELP! Social Media Marketing for Beginners Lunch & Learn (2 Hours)

Explore the ever-changing landscape of social media marketing while enjoying a light lunch. The basics of Facebook for business will be covered with step-by-step instructions for set-up. Instagram, YouTube, and other social media platforms will also be analyzed from a small business owner perspective. Find out when to post, proper use of hashtags, and how to boost content in this information packed class! 9/25, T, 12:00-2:00 p.m.

Fee Waived Robinson

Burnsville Town Center, 828.766.1295

Starting Your Business on eBay: The Basics of Selling (2 Hours) NEW!

During this fast-paced session, learn best practices to use when setting up an eBay account, listing items for sale, taking payments, shipping and much more! Topics will include eBay appraisals and research, registering your account, writing descriptions that sell, shipping tips, and pricing philosophies that will make you an eBay Top Rated Seller! Taught by certified eBay specialist and top rated seller, Nick Hawks!

10/4, TH, 1:00-3:00 p.m. Fee Waived Hawks Mitchell, 828.766.1295

Building Your Business on eBay: Tips to Build Sales (2 Hours) NEW!

This session is for individuals who want to establish a continual retail presence on eBay. Topics in this class will include starting and growing an eBay business, finding merchandise to sell, creating professional listings, marketing your business on eBay, managing active listings, resolving issues, and growing your eBay business. Gain "tricks of the trade" from a top rated seller!

10/4, TH, 3:00-5:00 p.m. Fee Waived Hawks Mitchell, 828.766.1295

The Baby Equipment and Resource Closet (B.E.A.R.) at East Asheville United Methodist Church reaches out to families that are struggling to provide basic necessities for their babies and small children. Items such as clothing, shoes, baby equipment, bedding, diapers, and hygiene products are provided for free to expectant parents, single parents, foster families, grandparents raising grandchildren, and any family in need.

If you have 2-4 hours of free time a month, a love for children and a desire to improve the quality of life for struggling families, the East Asheville B.E.A.R. Closet invites you to join our outreach ministry and mission. B.E.A.R. Closet is open the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. East Asheville United Methodist Church 48 Browndale Road Asheville (off Hwy. 70 near the VA Hospital)

Volunteer opportunities consist of greeting clients, assisting with paperwork, sorting and organizing clothing, completing client orders, and cleaning donated equipment. For more information please call Cheryl at 230-1071. We also welcome you to visit the website at www.bearcloset.org, or stop by and visit the B.E.A.R. Closet during business hours.

NOTES



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BEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Welcomes You to

Celebrate Recovery

Thursday's at 7:00pm



Hope & Help from **Addiction Through Christ** said, matter of factly, "Not a problem. I'll just put it in 4-wheel drive, lock down the wheels and move it out."

I was immediately insulted..."What, do you think I don't have it in 4-wheel drive? Do you really believe I am that stupid???" Always the teacher, he again smiled that crooked grin, looked at me over his glasses, and remarked, "Well, we know you've had challenges with 4-wheel drive in the past." Oh sure, now he's remembering the time I nearly burned up "Blackie the Jeep" on some danged mountain, thinking I had it in 4-wheel drive and didn't!

I was greatly relieved that my friend didn't disown me; delighted that his renowned sense of optimism remained intact. Somehow he always gives me hope when I am overwhelmed by dark clouds. But, truth be told I didn't care how he did it, I just wanted this nightmare to end.

All's Well that Ends Well

Yeah, yeah, yeah...we arrived home to find I had failed to engage the 4-wheel drive AGAIN! GRRRRR ..

It took Farmer Doug approximately 3 1/2 minutes to dislodge his tractor and trailer from the quicksand that WAS our lower lot. But, always the gentleman and friend, he remarked, "Pollard, every bit of advice I give to you comes from having made lots of mistakes. So don't feel bad, I've done exactly the same things and then some!"

What a friend...what an encourager...what a farmer. But, I am still Farmer Clint...and he's not @!

Humbled in the Hills.

Farmer Clint



wheelernc.com



Do you want this man to have more power?

- Supports cutting \$50 million from kid's lunch program (SNAP)
- Voted to eliminate scholarships for fallen veterans' kids
- Refused to help our people get access to health care.
- Refused to properly fund our schools.

OR

Someone who cares about our families.

- Wants to get teacher pay to top 20 in U.S. by 2020
- · Restore and expand scholarships for our fallen veterans' children.
- Expand early childhood education.
- Properly fund rural health care and hospitals.





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Tim's Treasures

The Pitter-Patter of Raindrops

By Timothy W. Tron Burke County

The pitter-patter of raindrops on the deck outside the porch called to me. Donning my camouflage rubber boots, rain vest, and all-weather wide-brimmed hat, I grabbed my walking staff and headed for the woods. The skies were dark even in the middle of the day. All around us the radar indicated dark green, the sign of heavy rain. The remnants of Hurricane Florence were finally upon us.

The worst was yet to come.

East of us folks had already dealt with this storm for over two days. Massive flooding and torrential rains were continuing. Here in the mountains, we were just getting started.

As my footsteps carried me deeper into the forest, overhead the canopy gave me shelter. Large drops would occasionally splatter on my brim bringing a refreshing sprinkle to my chin. The creek was already swollen but not remarkedly so. The treetops swayed by winds gusting sporadically, which would yield another gentle shower.

My footsteps carried me on, like the water flowing past. My mind became adrift. Those early memories began to flood my mind.

The rain had been falling for days. The Wabash was up again, and for some reason, our family had decided to go exploring the ever-mysterious "Battle Ground," as we had always known it. As kids, we never knew the truth of its name. The stories that had been handed down over the centuries were from stories created by artifacts found when grandpa had plowed the field for planting. It was when the bottom plow pulled up broken shards of pottery and spear points, the sounds of those ancient tribesmen footsteps could be heard once more. It was a low land piece of pasture that bordered the banks of the Wabash River in Posey County on the edge of the farm where we called home. The swollen river had claimed much of the lower reaches along its estuaries, so the family simply wanted to see if it too were under water.

When we arrived, the water was a milky, brown. It swirled about the trees like ancient warriors seeking a hiding spot from which to shoot their arrows. My father had me safely perched upon his shoulders. From my vantage point, I could see the rest of the family. They waded about in the murky water as if seeking something they had lost; yet, nothing was found. The ground they had known was now engulfed by flood waters, taking with them anything which was exposed. My little body squirmed as my legs burned to seek that spinning fluidness.

"Let me walk," my mind can recall me saying to my father.

"No, it's too deep," he would answer.

The torment upon his weary shoulders must have caused him to give in, because the next thing I remember, I was walking in the coldness. The water sent shivers up my spine. His hand firmly grasping my own. The few steps taken had been enough to quench my desire, for not long after, I was back up on top of my father's shoulders. Inside, a sick, chill lingered. At that point, all I could think about was being back inside Grandma's kitchen by the warm wood stove.

Not many days after that walk, my little body would succumb to pneumonia. It was then I learned about solitariness. Alone in the plastic oxygen tent in the children's ward of Deaconess Hospital my frail, child body would slowly battle that near-fatal illness. There alone for what seemed like days, I would yearn for anyone to come speak to me. The tears of loneliness often were what cried me to sleep. Early one morning or evening, I know not which, only that the light of day was fading, there appeared a figure at the foot of my bed. I never made out his form through the unclear plastic, only that someone was with me. In his presence, the emptiness that had been before seemed to evaporate. A warmth of love washed over my soul as if another spirit had enveloped my little being. From that point forward, I never felt alone again.

Since that time, back when I was barely two years old, He has comforted me in my darkest hours again, and again. Even when I tried my best to run from Him, He never left my side.

The feeling of the Holy Spirit had wrapped his arms around me, and once more, this evening on my walk, I was reminded of that special time in my life.

Many people walk through their entire lives and never find comfort. They seek what they cannot find in places which cannot fill their void of emptiness. It is as if they continue to flounder in a fluidness from whence they cannot escape. Like water, we can either choose to sink or swim. It is our choice. Our spiritual life is no different; we have a choice.

Jesus told his disciples, "And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For everyone that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened."

My friends, take the life-line he has given you. Don't think you can go it alone. Everyone that asketh shall receive, if only you will ask.

Water is an amazing property. When we drink it, we are made well. Too much of it and we can drown. Spiritually, we can be Baptized in it and made anew, once we have found salvation in Jesus Christ. There is no other substance on earth that can compare or replace what it can do for us. Like Jesus, there is nothing to which can compare or replace Him.

This evening, the pitter patter of raindrops fall around me, and once more I am made whole.

Come what may, even tonight should the tempest unfold upon us, His mercy shall give us comfort; even in our darkest hour.

Thanks be to God.

Timothy W. Tron lives in Collettsville, NC. with his family. He is the former Director of the Trail of Faith in Valdese, where he still volunteers and helps with tours. He now teaches Math full time at Watauga High School in Boone. He is the author of a new Christian series, "Children of the Light," with the first book being, "Bruecke to Heaven," and his recent book, being the second, "The Light in the Darkness." He is an active blogger, artist, and musician. Timothy also has a BSEE from UF, and is a Lay Speaker. He can be reached at twtron@live.com



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KATHY WOODY YOUNG Mitchell County School Board

Kathy Woody Young is a candidate for Mitchell County School Board. She is a graduate of Bowman High School. Young has 38 years of experience working for Mitchell County Administration. She is the current County Manager for Mitchell County. She has extensive knowledge and experience writing/receiving grants for Mitchell County, as well has budget and finance operations.

She is a member of Bear Creek Baptist Church where she has attended her entire life. She is married to Mike Young and they have two children, Christopher Young; owner and operator of Pioneer Cabinets; Amber Young; Physical Education teacher at Gouge Elementary School. Both are college graduates and products of Mitchell County Schools.

Young's passion for children and love of Mitchell County are her reasons for running. Her goals as a Board of Education Member are: Academics are the number one priority, all students should have the tools they need to learn and be successful, accountability for everyone and ensuring that money is spent where it is supposed to be, schools that are award winning like neighboring counties and teachers who have the resources to do their job effectively.

Other areas of importance are implementing STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) and DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) programs at the Kindergarten level and beyond. Young also wants to continue funding and usage of 1:1 in all schools as well securing funding and/or grants to supply tutors as needed for MTSS (Multi Tiered System of Support) for students who academically need support in Tier 2 & Tier 3 in order to be successful.

Paid for by candidate.

YOUR GOVERNMENT PAGES

US House of Representatives NC District 11



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

In the Wake of Florence, Pray for North Carolina

With flooded homes, mudslides, casualties, thousands without power, and over one million people ordered to evacuate their homes indefinitely, Hurricane Florence has devastated the great state we all call home. While we were blessed in Western North Carolina to experience less rain and damage than expected, every loss is painful and as we are called in scripture, we can mourn alongside those mourning devastating loss of possessions—and far more importantly, the loss of loved ones. I am praying for each and every person affected by this hurricane, and I will continue to pray for the beautiful state of North Carolina.

In the wake of disaster, it can be difficult to determine how to help and where to intercede. In recent days I've had the opportunity to visit Eastern North Carolina and visit with first responders and families from the surrounding area. They are doing incredible work, all putting their own lives on the line to help our state and communities recover. In this time of need, it is essential that everyone pitch in and help and so many have stepped up to the plate. I'm grateful for them.

As Christians, we are called to serve and care for those in need, loving one another as we wish to be loved. As we recover from Hurricane Florence, let us all be quick to serve – lending a helping hand, a warm meal, or even an encouraging word. 1 Peter 4:10 says "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."

Please continue praying for the wonderful people of North Carolina and South Carolina as they recover from the storm's damage. Now, more than ever, we can be proud of the great state we call home. With God's grace, we will recover.

NC Senate District 47

As the November election approaches, in addition to looking carefully at the candidates who will be on the ballot, there are six proposed Constitutional amendments to consider. I have explained, in prior updates, four of the proposed amendments (below) and why I believe they are good for our state and why I intend to vote For them.

- Constitutional amendment protecting the right of the people to hunt, fish, and harvest wildlife.
- Constitutional amendment to strengthen protections for victims of crime; to establish certain absolute basic rights for victims; and to ensure the enforcement of these rights.
- Constitutional amendment to reduce the income tax rate in North Carolina to a maximum allowable rate of seven percent (7%).
- Constitutional amendment to require voters to provide photo identification before voting in person.
- I also support and will vote For two additional amendments:
- 5. Constitutional amendment to change the process for filling judicial vacancies that occur between judicial elections from a process in which the Governor has sole appointment power to a process in which the people of the State nominate individuals to fill vacancies by way of a commission comprised of appointees made by the judicial, executive, and legislative branches charged with making recommendations to the legislature as to which nominees are deemed qualified; then the legislature will recommend at least two nominees to the Governor via legislative action not subject to gubernatorial veto; and the Governor will appoint judges from among these nominees.
 6. Constitutional amendment to establish an eight-member Bipartisan Board of Ethics and Elections Enforcement in the Constitution to administer ethics and elections law.

Gov. Roy Cooper opposed these two amendments and filed lawsuits in an effort to block voters from deciding on whether to change the process for filling judicial vacancies and whether to establish an eight-member Bipartisan Board of Ethics and Elections. However, the NC Supreme Court upheld a lower court's ruling against Gov. Roy Cooper's suit to stop the public from voting on amendments to their Constitution.

The Judicial Appointments amendment would empower voters to nominate candidates to fill judicial vacancies and end patronage judicial appointments. Governor Bev Perdue, on her last day in office in 2012, appointed four individuals to the state's second highest court as special Superior Court judges. These four people worked for her and had no judicial experience.

Additionally, the Judicial Appointments amendment would authorize a non-partisan merit commission, appointed by the Chief Justice, the governor and the General Assembly, to evaluate those nominees and rate them based on their professional qualifications and merit, would direct the General Assembly to review the qualified nominees submitted by the nonpartisan commission and forward at least two nominees to the governor for consideration; would provide that the governor will appoint the nominee he or she considers most qualified to serve a provisional judicial term; and would require the appointed judge to stand for election following the governor's appointment in order to continue holding the judicial office.

The Ethics and Elections amendment would establish an eight-member, bipartisan board to administer North Carolina's ethics and elections laws, free from the influence from the legislative, executive, or judicial branches of state government. Members of the bipartisan board would be appointed by the governor based on recommendations from legislative leaders of both parties. No more than four members of the board could be registered with the same political party, ensuring that ethics and elections enforcement is not encumbered by partisan politics.

I hope you will join me in voting "For" all six proposed constitutional amendments on Election Day. As always, please share your thoughts with me on issues related to state government by emailing me at ralph.hise@ncleg.net or calling me at 919-733-3460.



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



Record Number of Judges, Nominees Confirmed

Although August is usually a slow time in Washington, the Senate has been hard at work this year to carry out the work the American people sent us here to dodespite historic obstruction from our friends across the aisle. Just this month, the Senate confirmed fifteen lifetime appointments to the Judiciary and several dozen
executive branch nominees. Some of these positions include appointments to the Federal Reserve, the Securities and Exchange Commission, and the U.S. Treasury's
Intelligence department. Not bad for a month when the Senate is usually not in session.

To date, the Senate has confirmed sixty-eight judicial nominees – forty-two district court judges and twenty-six circuit court judges – in addition to U.S. Supreme Court Justice Neil Gorsuch. And next week, the Senate Judiciary Committee will begin hearings for the nomination of Judge Brett Kavanaugh to serve on the Supreme Court. Although I do not sit on the Judiciary Committee, I look forward to following the hearings closely and hearing Judge Kavanaugh's rationale and points of view.

Even though obstructionists have fought tooth and nail to slow down and stall consideration of many of these highly qualified nominees, the Senate has carried on the work of making sure our courts and critical executive branch positions are filled with the best possible individuals. The work we've done this August will impact the U.S. judiciary for decades to come, which is why it was so crucial to stay in Washington until it was finished. Under the Constitution, part of the Senate's duties are to provide 'advice and consent' for such nominees, and we will continue doing our job.

GOD BLESS AMERICA

YOUR GOVERNMENT PAGES

NC House District 118

Madison County libraries recognized as best in nation

Library Journal recognized Madison County Public Libraries (MCPL) as the 2018 Best Small Library in America. Read more about MCPL's recognition at KHQ.

Legislators receive Florence briefing

The Governor's Office has activated the North Carolina Disaster Relief Fund for donations to support North Carolina's response to Hurricane Florence. Visit rebuildnc.gov or text FLORENCE to 20222 to donate to the NC Disaster Relief Fund.



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

NC Senate District 46

Over the last month, Democratic activists, including Governor Cooper, filed a flurry of lawsuits to try to stop you from ever weighing in on popular constitutional amendments like Voter ID and lowering the maximum income tax rate.

I'm happy to report that this week, the North Carolina Supreme Court rejected these absurd legal attacks, ending the Democrats' attempts to get an activist judge to prevent the amendments from appearing on the ballot.

It's now up to you to decide if you want to join 34 other states in requiring ID when voting. To me, the policy just makes sense - you have to show ID for a whole host of minor transactions, and you should have to do the same when deciding on who will govern the country. And last month, federal authorities charged 19 foreign nationals with voting illegally.

You'll also be able to weigh in on lowering the maximum income tax rate in our state constitution. This year's income tax rate is 5.49%, and it's dropping to 5.25% next year, but the Constitution permits the rate to be as high as 10%. The General Assembly proposed lowering that maximum rate to 7%. I think it's a good idea to prevent a return to the days of spendthrift politicians, high taxes, and multi-billion dollar deficits by lowering the maximum tax rate.

Voter ID and the income tax cap are just two of the six proposed constitutional amendments that you will now have a chance to vote on this fall. The six amendments are as follows:

- To require voters to provide photo identification before voting in person.
- To reduce the income tax rate in North Carolina to a maximum allowable rate of seven percent (7%).
- To protect the right of the people to hunt, fish, and harvest wildlife.
- 4. To strengthen protections for victims of crime; to establish certain absolute basic rights for victims; and to ensure the enforcement of these rights.
- To establish an eight-member Bipartisan Board of Ethics and Elections Enforcement in the Constitution to administer ethics and elections law.
- 6. To change the process for filling judicial vacancies that occur between judicial elections from a process in which the Governor has sole appointment power to a process in which the people of the State nominate individuals to fill vacancies by way of a commission comprised of appointees made by the judicial, executive, and legislative branches charged with making recommendations to the legislature as to which nominees are deemed qualified; then the legislature will recommend at least two nominees to the Governor via legislative action not subject to gubernatorial veto; and the Governor will appoint judges from among these nominees.

These policies are very popular which is why the Democrats did everything in their power to prevent them from ever appearing on the ballot. Now that their ridiculous legal challenge has finally come to an end, it's time for the people to vote on how they want their state to be run.

I believe that every one of these amendments is of vital importance to North Carolina and I'm confident that the voters will agree. Below my signature is a helpful chart that explains how the amendments will appear on the ballot along with a description of what the amendment would change.

As always, if my office can be helpful to you in dealing with state government, please don't hesitate to contact me or my staff.



Sen. Warren Daniel Warren Daniel@ncleg.net 919-715-7823





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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE August 23, 2018

Contact: Barry Smith 919.807.6014

New Medicare cards being mailed out

RALEIGH - North Carolina Insurance Commissioner Mike Causey reminds people who have Medicare health insurance to check their mail boxes. Their new Medicare card could be in there.

"Your new Medicare card may look a little different, "Commissioner Causey said. "It will no longer have your Social Security number on it. That's to help protect against fraud and identity theft, and to protect your medical information."

Instead, the new card will use a combination of numbers and letters.

Your new card will automatically come to you. You don't need to do anything to receive your new card as long as your address is up to date. If you need to update your address, visit your My Social Security account page (https://www.ssa.gov/myaccount/1.

Once you get your new Medicare card, remember to destroy your old card. You can start using your new card right away.

All this month, Medicare has been mailing the new cards to beneficiaries in many Southeast states including. North Carolina. It will likely take 30 days, perhaps longer, for the mailings to be complete.

Commissioner Causey also warns Medicare recipients that unscrupulous people may use the new card rollout as an opportunity to scam you. Don't fall for it.

Here are some ways people may try to steal from you:

- . Is someone calling, claiming to be from Medicare, asking for your Social Security number or bank information? Hang up. First, Medicare won't call you. Second, Medicare will never ask for your Social Security number or bank information.
- . Is someone asking you to pay for your new card? That's a scam. Your new Medicare card is free.
- Is someone threatening to cancel your benefits if you don't give up information or money? This is also a scam. New Medicare cards will be mailed out to you automatically. There won't be any changes to your benefits.

For more information on Medicare fraud, contact the Senior Medicare Patrol within the Department of Insurance's Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) at 1-855-408-1212.

- NCDOI -



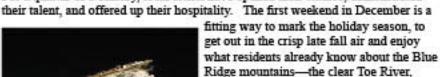
Toe River Arts

Toe River Studio Tour The Journey Continues

By Kate Groff Mitchell and Yancey Counties

The mountains of Yancey and Mitchell Counties of Western North Carolina are home to some of the top artists in America. And twice a year, Toe River Arts honors their talent and the area in which they choose to live and work with a premier studio tour showcasing their work.

For a quarter of a century, local artists have opened their studios, demonstrated



curves in the roads, the likelihood of finding something different, something that speaks to this out of the way place. Artists in the two counties will welcome visitors to their studios for an entire weekend of browsing and buying.

Each year the tour has grown-from the original 13 artists back in the early 90's, to now over 100. This year's tour boasts 103 participating artists, 62 open studios, and 6 galleries.

Glass studios sparkle with ornaments, sculptures, vases and bowls, goblets and glasses-blown, fused and flameworked.





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Potters show off trays, jugs, mugs, tiles, baking pans, fountains, bird houses, sculptured forms, ceremonial pieces, dinnerware, even a bathroom sink. They come in stoneware, raku, wood-fired, earthenware, Majolica, and porcelain. If wood makes the heart pound, carving, furniture, turned wood, inlaid wood, painted wood, or art made with materials gathered from the woods will definitely keep it beating. And all the jewelry. It lights up a room with reflections off precious stones, pearls, copper, brass, silver, and gold. People who need something above the couch. in the kitchen, down the stairwell can chose from photographs, pencils and charcoals, oils, watercolors, acrylics, silkscreen, and paintings on handmade paper. Textiles are covered in handspun yarns, hand-woven flat goods, sculptured dolls, and garments pieced, painted, and stitched. There are soaps and scents and some things that truly make one wonder, "How did they do that?" Each tour is unique. Some artists have participated in all. Others come and go with the seasons. And if you can't get to it all, and you won't, don't worry, There's another tour the first weekend in June.

Bright studio signs point the way from studio to studio, from gallery to gallery, from one unique work environment to another, And a free 40+ page full color guide directs you to each. The tour starts on Friday, November 30 at 10am. At 5pm, the artists close their doors and head over to the Spruce Pine Gallery for a Meet-the-Artist free reception at 5:30pm. The community is invited to stop by, shake a hand or two, friend, and plan their route for the next two days when studio doors open at 10:00am and stay open until 5:00pm.

All the information will be available at the website, www.toeriverarts.org by end of September. The guide will be available in October. For more information, email trac@toeriverarts.org or call 828.682.7215.

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



PHONE (828) 765-5557 • FAX (828) 765-5558

Morganton First Baptist Church

Peace: A Settled Assurance

By Paster Dan Qurollo Burke County

As I sit down to pen this article, many have just endured a very difficult time with hurricane Florence. Those who live in the eastern part of our state and in South Carolina have battled significant loss and devastation, some even bearing the loss of loved ones. Floodwaters

are still on the rise, causing the restoration efforts to be hindered as crews are unable to make it into the devastated areas. Officials are uncertain regarding how long power will be out. Tragically, looters are taking advantage of those who have lost so much or have been forced to evacuate. Without a doubt, this storm has had a devastating effect on the lives of many people.

Regardless of the challenges that individuals have faced, are facing, and will continue to face, the Bible teaches that believers can have a settled calminess of spirit, even when circumstance around them would seem to dictate otherwise. In fact, this sense of peace is not only possible; it is expected. The Bible teaches three types of peace, all of which are vital for individuals today.

1. Spiritual peace - Romans 5:1

Until a person is first settled in his eternal relationship with God, he will never experience peace. Romans 5:1 teaches, "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." This is the peace that comes when a person places his complete confidence in the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross. God judicially declares that person righteous (justified), thus granting the believer spiritual peace. No longer an enemy of God (Romans 5:10) and no longer one on whom God's wrath presently abides (John 3:36), the believer experiences a changed relationship and is at peace with God the Father. Nothing can ever change this standing for the believer, it is eternal in its nature.

Internal peace – John 14-16

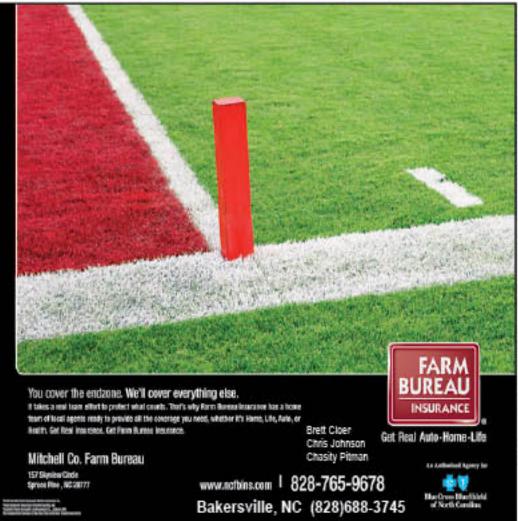
As John 13 concludes, Jesus told His disciples some troubling news: He was about to depart from them and go to a place where they could not immediately follow Him. Speaking on behalf of the other disciples, Peter expressed his confusion over this statement and even began to question and argue with Him. Jesus addressed the disciples with the familiar words, "Let not your heart be troubled." In other words, stop allowing your minds to be filled with such turmoil and confusion. It speaks of a heart that is full of anxiety. The solution for such a mind is trust in God. Jesus stated, "Ye believe in God, believe also in me." Such peace is unaffected by circumstances, regardless of how troubling they may be because it recognizes God is at work (John 14:1-3). It is unwavering in loneliness, for it relies upon God the Holy Spirit's abiding presence (John 14:16), and it is achieved in prayer (Philippians 4:6-7).

Relational peace – Romans 14:19

Throughout our lifetime, we will encounter those with whom we disagree. Such disagreements must be handled biblically and resolved in a manner that brings glory to God (see Matthew 18:15-35). But we must strive to be at peace with one another. Such peace can only be obtained when both individuals are seeking it (Romans 12:18).

Is your life filled with uncertainty? Perhaps you have been given an unexpected diagnosis or lost a loved one. God desires that you experience His peace. It begins with salvation and is capable of enduring through the most difficult of times. Because peace is part of the fruit produced by the Holy Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23), the degree to which we experience this peace is in direct proportion to our submission to Him. Therefore, the limits to peace are self-imposed because we do not trust Him and pray as we should.

Pastor Dan Qurollo is pastor Morganton Baptist Church. Check us out on our website www.morgantonbaptist.net or find us on Facebook and YouTube.



The Inspiring Word

Being Christ Like

By Pastor Terry Cheek Th.D. McDowell County

Every Christian has a conviction to be Christ like. Pastors, Evangelist's and Missionaries preach about it. Bible teachers teach about it. However, how do we apply it in our daily lives? Like anything else, Christ-likeness



can be subjective or objective. The subjective application is solely based on our opinion, our passion or the things and events, which we hold dear. I don't mean to imply that subjectivity has no place in being Christ like, but it cannot be an exclusive application either. When subjectivity is defined as God's calling for our life and our purpose in His will then it becomes more than opinion, it is a Holy calling, gifting and anointing. Then there is objectivity. The objective application may also be called principles, which guide our heart and life. We should never try to read our subjective opinion into a matter which God's word speaks clearly too.

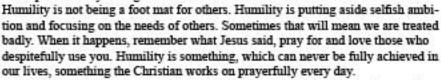
Being objective is much more difficult and disciplined than being subjective. Understanding this I want to offer a few points that I believe will help all Christians be more Christ like.

Let's begin with the Christian's source of authority, our Bible. The Christian can respect many sources, however the Christian can have only one source of that is authoritative, and this must be their Bible. We are told from our Bible that all scripture is given by inspiration. The word inspiration translates the Greek meaning God Breathed. God has spoken through His writers and their work stands as

our authority today. To be Christ like is to allow God's authoritative Word to speak to our hearts and effectively change our lives. For this to happen we must read it as study it and do this often.

To be Christ like is to be motivated to action. This is where our subjectivity becomes tested by godly conviction. Where is God leading you? It's time for action, time to trust God. If God is truly behind your convictions' and our motivation comes from His will, man cannot stop it. In addition, neither can you ignore it.

An indicator of godly action will be humility. Humility often gets an incomplete or very wrong definition.



The Christian cannot stop with understanding what to do and merely repeating that understanding. We are to practice Christ-likeness from our heart. We cannot be Christian without having a changed heart. A heart changed through a relationship with Jesus Christ, being born again. Our will then guides our behavior and leads us to continuing repentance as our walk with Christ grows daily.

Why do I mention repentance? Because no one can be, Christ like, all day,

every day of his or her lives. The flesh will eventually affect our behavior and the Holy Spirit will convict us to repent. Christ-likeness is a daily growth in our relationship with Jesus; this relationship is displayed through our behavior. I learn daily how to be more Christ like, I trust you do too!

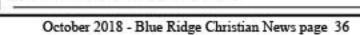
I'm going to combine two points in this paragraph, thankfulness and kindness. Both are not only important but also necessary for us to be Christ like. Christ was always thankful to God the Father. The good, bad, ugly, peaceful and event contentious times Christ always met them with thankfulness. We too should pray for a heart of thanksgiving daily. Doing so will make the path easier for kindness. Being truly thankful prepares us to be genuinely kind, not only in our material giving but also in our treatment of others. We will begin by moving away from treating others the way they treat us and start treating them the way we want to be treated.

How does it end? From godly wisdom, we not only know God's word, will, purpose and conviction for our life but we understand where our life needs to be as the vessel He chose to work through. It ends with Christians being the two greatest commandments. We truly love God with our body, mind and soul and we love others as we love ourselves.

Being Christ like is an awesome challenge presented to us once we are born into the family of God. How we handle it is very important to the Great Commission. Others see Christ through our life, our behavior, our attitude, our decisions and words and manners. Being Christ like is something every Christian should take very seriously and approach it daily in prayer seeking God's work through our life for the day.

I hope you find blessing, hope and encouragement in this column-- my prayer is for it to strengthen your relationship with God through His son Jesus Christ.

Terry Cheek is pastor of Calvary Missionary Baptist Church in Marion NC. You can contact Terry by email at terrycheek63@ gmail.com or by phone at (828) 460-6120.



Mine Creek Baptist Church

Support Your Pastor!

By Preacher Chris Rathbone Mitchell County

October is Pastor Appreciation Month. Read with an open heart and show your pastor and his family how much you appreciate them for all they do for your church

Support your Pastor!

Several years ago, I approached my former pastor and issued an apology. This man was my pastor when I received Christ as Savior and baptized me. He faithfully preached the Bible, pastored the church, attended night classes at Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute, worked on a job during the day, and continued to be a faithful husband and Dad. The reason for the apology I gave was the fact that after being in the ministry for a few years, I realized that I could have been a much better church member! In all that this pastor did, balancing his church, family, and career, I still found things to whine and complain about. Personally, I failed to realize how much was on him. Instead of looking for things to whine and complain about, I should have been praying, helping, and supporting him more. In other words, when God called me to pastor and

preach I began to understand through experience what a pastor faces every day in the ministry. Unless you are a pastor, you cannot understand the day to day challenges one faces.

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

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

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

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

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

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





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Crossword

Ciosswoia
ACROSS
1 he warmeth himself, and saith, , I am warm (Isaiah 44:16)
KJV
4 whosoever shall exalt himself
shall be (Matt 23:12) KJV
10 we know that our old was
crucified with him (Rom 6:6) 14 Then Paul stood in the midst
of hill (Acts 17:22)
16 your love more than wine.
How right they are to you
(Song 1:4) 17 Asa destroyed her , and
burnt it by the brook (1 King
15:13)
18 he had clad himself with
garment (1,3) (1 King
11:29)
19 also, that women them- selves in modest apparel (1 Tim
2:9)
20; God hath numbered thy
kingdom, and finished it. (Daniel
5:26) KJV
21 If you see oppression of the
poor and of justice (Eccl 5:8) (NAS)
23 I am full of to and fro (Job
7:4) KJV
25 they believed his promises and
his praise (Ps 106:12)
27 stagger (Isa 28:7) 29 The shekel is to consist of
twenty (Ezek 45:12)
32 bless you by turning of
you from your wicked ways (Acts
3:26)
35 It is God who me with strength .(2 Sam 22:33)
38 Eber, Misham, Shemed who
built and Lod (1 Chron 8:12)
39 Then Pharaoh woke up; it had
been (1,5) (Gen 41:7)
41 your unfailing love rest
upon us, O LORD (Ps 33:22) 42, a trusted personal servant
of the king (Acts 12:20)
44 cow will feed with the bear,
their young will down togeth-
er (Isa 11:7)
45 They beat us publicly without
(1,5) (Acts 16:37) 47 long period of time
48 they are not plagued by human
(Ps 73:5)
49 they to the depths like a
stone (Ex 15:5)
50 and put them in the loops to the tent together (Ex 26:11)
53 that my ways directed to
53 that my ways directed to keep thy statutes! (Ps 119:5) KJV 55 The words of, who was
55 The words of, who was
among the herdmen of Tekoa
(Amos 1:1)
58 when you suddenly bring

against them (Jer 18:22) 62 O afflicted city, lashed by

and not comforted (Isa 54:11) 64 Peace, peace, to those far and

says the LORD (Isa 57:19)

65 but lips that speak knowl-
edge are jewel (1,4)
(Prov 20:15)
67 Then they in his face
and struck him with their fists
(Matt 26:67)
68 it goes through places
seeking rest (Matt 12:43)
69 Jesus rebuked the , and
it came out of the boy (Matt
17:18)
70 we spend our years as a
that is told (Ps 90:9)
71 Noah and his, Shem,
Ham and Japheth (Gen 7:13)
72 the sound of the hoofs of
galloping (Jer 47:3)
73 The wicked in the righ-
teous, so that justice is pervert-
ed (Hab 1:4)
DOWN

Ham and Japheth (Gen 7:13) 72 the sound of the hoofs of galloping (Jer 47:3) 73 The wicked in the righteous, so that justice is perverted (Hab 1:4)
DOWN
1 As man who casteth
1 As man who casteth firebrands (1,3) (Prov 26:18) KJV
2 Zoan and their envoys have
arrived in (Isa 30:4)
3 Like men condemned to die in the (1 Cor 4:9)
5 Tear down your father's altar
to and cut down the Ash-
erah (Judg 6:25)
6 Who of you by worrying
can a single hour to his
life?(Matt 6:27)
7 So they took from a fur-
nace and stood before Pharaoh
(Ex 9:10)
8 Who can discern his ?
Forgive my hidden faults (Ps
19:12)
9 the forest has been cut
down (Zech 11:2)
10 With many parables
Jesus spoke the word to them
(Mark 4:33)
11 a river went out of to
water the garden (Gen 2:10)
12 my Savior, and my hope is
in you all day (Ps 25:5)
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51 He who tends a fig tree will its fruit (Prov 27:18)
52 called ten of his servants and
gave them ten (Luke 19:13)
54 Blessed is the one who
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1:3)
56 Moabite women, one named
and the other Ruth (Ruth
1:4)
57 I will change my expression,
and (Job 9:27)
59 Roman emperor(54-68 A.D.)
60 They worship me in;
their teachings are but rules
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61 to another faith by the
Spirit (1 Cor 12:9)
62 The Lord needs it and will it back here shortly (Mark
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63 there shall come forth a rod out of the of Jesse (Isa
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66 My beloved is like a or
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Solution on page 14

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and the lizard (Lev 11:30) KJV

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Mitchell County SafePlace

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

By Beth Davis Mitchell County

Yet another year has past, and yet the number of domestic violence victims in North Carolina who have been murdered at the hands of the one who claims to love them is staggering. Most of you are aware of (or

participated in) our Walk A Mile In Her Shoes fundraiser

this year and in years past. It's always fun, family-friendly, full of sore feet and lots of laughs! That said, the underlying purpose to raise funds and awareness is deadly serious, and a plague on our community.

"Domestic violence exacts a high price on families. This type of particular violence goes beyond bruises and broken bones and includes physical and emotional devastation, financial imprisonment or ruination, troubled and damaged children, as well as family pets. Our pets are our family members. Abusers are highly manipulative, and this is but one method of power and control abusers use to threaten those they claim to love. Our purpose is to give victims of abuse a safe haven to reclaim their power and control, as well as their independence. We provide a safe and secure 'home' for victims, their children, and of course, their pets," says Connie Sedberry, Executive Director of Mitchell County SafePlace.

According to Associate Director Tracy Black, "Mitchell County SafePlace is extremely grateful for the support of our community. The Walk a Mile in Her

Shoes event this month affords us the opportunity to make everyone aware of the services SafePlace provides in breaking the bonds of interpersonal violence. Whether we provide emergency shelter and clothing for a domestic violence victim or pay for karate lessons for a 10-year-old rape victim so she can regain her personal power, these funds



will allow SafePlace to continue the lifesaving work we've been doing for over 20

County Commissioner Vern Grindstaff explains, "Since becoming involved in the Walk a Mile in Her Shoes for SafePlace campaign, I've learned that domestic abuse isn't 'just' black eyes and bruises. Abusers also threaten to hurt or even kill family members and pets. Sometimes the scars from verbal, emotional, and mental abuse are even worse than the physical ones. And then there's the financial abuse, where victims don't have money to escape, or the batterers cause them to lose their jobs. My involvement with Mitchell County SafePlace has been such an eye-opening experience for me. No one wants to admit that this is happening in our community, but it is......and it's happening way too much."

Mitchell County Sheriff Donald Street adds, "I'm very proud to take part in this fundraiser. I have zero tolerance for abusers in NC, and I support the strongest penalty for all abusers."

What is Domestic Violence?

Domestic violence is a pattern of behavior used to exert power and control over another person, typically a spouse or partner, through fear, intimidation, and often the threat or act of physical harm. Other terms used to describe domestic violence are intimate partner violence, spousal abuse, family violence/abuse, or battering. Domestic violence does not discriminate: it knows no age, economic, social, religious, sexual orientation, geographic, ethnic, or racial bounds.

About domestic violence in Mitchell County and the US

In 2017, Mitchell County SafePlace provided free, lifesaving services to nearly 900 women, children, men, and their pets. In fact, SafePlace is one of only four domestic violence shelters in North Carolina, and the first in Western North Caro-

One in 4 women will experience domestic violence in her lifetime in the United States; 1 in 3 female homicide victims are murdered by their current or former partner every year; more than 60% of domestic violence incidents happen at home. Additionally, 1 in 7 men fall victim to domestic violence.

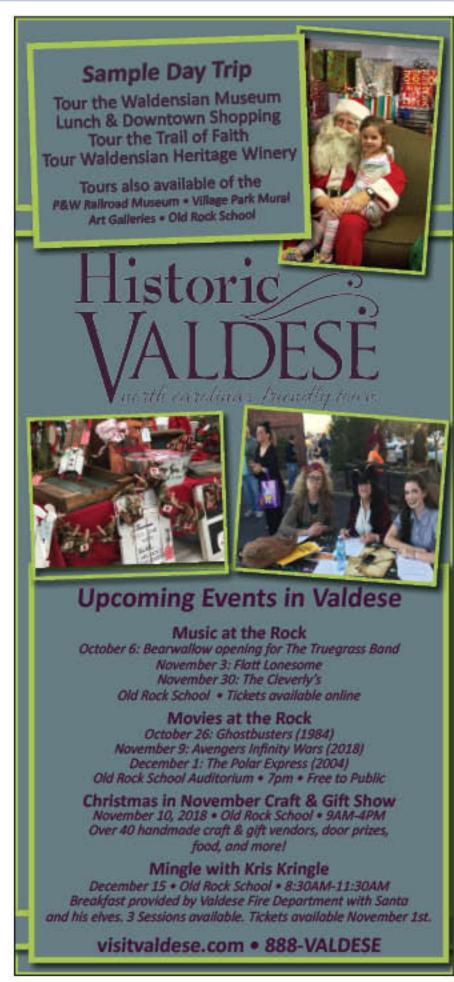
Additionally, more than 3 million children will witness domestic violence in their homes every year; they are more likely to intervene when they witness severe violence. Children exposed to domestic violence at home are more likely to develop relationships in which they are abused or become abusers.

According to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, domesc violence is the third leading cause of homelessness among families

Thanks to your donations to our thrift stores and your monetary support, Mitchell County SafePlace is able to quietly, determinedly continue our mission to provide safe shelter, as well as numerous other services to those escaping the horrors of domestic violence. We couldn't do it without you!

Beth Davis is the Resource Development Coordinator at Mitchell County Safe-Place. She can be reached at 828-765-4015 or bethbdavis60@gmail.com.







corners of thy field, neither shalt thou gather the gleanings of thy harvest. Leviticus 19:9-10

Lees-McRae College

Oct. 4 Founder's Day Ceremony and Family Picnic and Concert

By Nina Mastandrea Avery County

BANNER ELK, N.C. — The Town of Banner Elk and Lees-McRae College will celebrate their mutual histories Thursday, Oct. 4 with the Founder's Day Ceremony and Family Picnic and Concert.

Both events—which are free and open to the public—precede the inauguration of 16th President of Lees-McRae, Dr. Herbert L. King Jr. on Friday, Oct. 5.

The Founder's Day Ceremony will begin at 4:30 p.m. in Tate-Evans Park in Banner Elk and feature a twin-tree planting and presentation. Co-hosted by both Lees-McRae and the Town of Banner Elk, speakers will include President King, Town Manager Rick Owen and local historian Michael Hardy.

To symbolize their enduring connections, one tree will be planted in Swank Park on the campus of Lees-McRae and another in Tate-Evans Park.

After the Founder's Day Ceremony, the evening's festivities will continue during the Family Picnic and Concert.

Starting at 5 p.m. in Tate-Evans Park, the evening will feature live entertainment, food trucks, inflatable games for all ages, and interactive novelties. Attendees are asked to bring a non-perishable food item to be donated to Feeding Avery Families in lieu of admission.

On the main stage, performances from The Harris Brothers, a Lenoir-based

Bluegrass band, followed by Nashville-based Mountain Heart will set the scene as several High Country food trucks offer options for all tastes.

Food trucks will include Betty's Biscuits from Banner Elk, The Cardinal, Egg Roll-In, and All Thai'd Up Ice Cream Rolls & Smoothies from Boone, Carolina Barbeque from Newland, Beech Mountain's



own Beech Mountain Brewing Company, and Banner Elk's Flat Top Mountain Brewery. Free hot dogs will be available for children 12 and under provided by the Town of Banner Elk.

Attendees can park for free at either the Historic Banner Elk Elementary School or the Town Hall parking lot.

Both Thursday's and Friday's events lead into the college's annual Homecoming weekend from Oct. 5-7. Learn more about Homecoming 2018

Learn more about President King's Inauguration as well as the events leading up to it

Nestled in the Blue Ridge Mountains of western North Carolina, Lees-McRae College is a private, four-year college offering diverse baccalaureate and graduate 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 828.898.5241.

Nina Mastandrea is the content manager of Lees-McRae College

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



Pause...and Consider

Am I a Complainer? By Ken and Jan Merop Avery County

I do not thrive in the stifling summer heat. I

Neither do I like being in air conditioning constantly. To keep things cooler when we lived in Florida, the shades in our family room were down most of the day...meaning I missed seeing the flowers, trees and green grass.

I always loved it when I could invite the out-

side in...windows and doors open so the cross ventilation blew through...as I do here in the mountains as much as possible. But, summer time in Florida for me, though pretty and bright, prevented that.

Though autumn in Florida was not the colorful display of trees found here in North Carolina, we still looked forward to those cooler breezes that blew in saying goodbye to the summer heat.

Much as I like to see my ideas of the seasons as simply preference, there are times I must admit that I am complaining. Instead, I should be thankful. Let's face it, if I hadn't had air conditioning to keep out the humidity, I'd have been a lot more uncomfortable. If I couldn't pull shades down, the summer sun would have scorched the room.

I recall winters in New Jersey that seemed never ending, with ice storms, treacherous driving conditions, and piles of snow. It was hard to appreciate the beauty of the crystalized trees if my husband was out on icy roads.

If we aren't careful, we'll easily become complainers. Complaining leads to a depressed spirit and will render us unproductive. It will cause others to shy away from us because complaining is wearying to the complainer and maybe even more so to the listener.

Rather, I think a bumper sticker I once read should be our motto. Whenever our mouths are ready to spout a complaint, let's say instead, "I'm too blessed to complain." And isn't that really true? We have so much to be thankful for that complaining is simply a waste of breath and time.

The Bible warns against complaining. The children of Israel murmured. It seemed no matter how many miracles God did for them, they complained. He parted the Red Sea to free them from their enemies. He gave them water from a rock, manna from heaven, and clothing and shoes that never wore out. And still they complained.

In Philippians 2:14, NKJV it says, "Do all things without complaining and lisputing."

We all have preferences. But, let's be careful not to be complainers. Selah

Mountainside splendor

I love color!

And autumn foliage is a non-stop show
that fills my senses.

How can we miss the fingertips of our Creator dipped in gold, crimson, and amber hues. Fall pushes out the emerald beauty of spring and summer as it prepares us to welcome the snows yet to come.

"For everything there is a season...God has made Everything beautiful for its own time." Ecclesiastes 3:1 & 11, NLT



Ken and Jan love residing in the mountains of Avery County. Visit Jan's new blog

a pauseandconsider.net, Journeying with Jan; and Ken's photos at kenmeropphotography.com.

But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Matthew 13:23

Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church

"Worshiping God Anyway"

By Shawn Thomas Burke County

On November 5th of last year, a killer shot 46 people who had gathered to worship at the First Baptist Church of Sutherland Springs, Texas, just southeast of San Antonio. The pastor, Frank Pomeroy, and his wife were out of town that Sunday, but their daughter Annabelle was in the service and was killed by the shooter. At a news conference the next day, Pastor Pomeroy said, "Christ is the one who's going



to be lifted up. That's what I'm telling everybody. You lean into what you don't understand. You lean into the Lord ... Whatever life brings to you, lean on the Lord rather than your own understanding. I don't understand, but I know my God does. And that's where I'll leave that." And a few days later the church was having services, with their minister of music leading worship from a wheelchair, still recuperating from his injuries.

That pastor, and that church, exemplify the true Christian spirit. Having endured some of the worst that life can throw at you, they didn't give up on their faith; instead they decided they were going to worship God anyway. That's the kind of spirit we see in Habakkuk this morning. He'd gotten about the worst news you could get about his future. And yet it didn't turn his gaze from God. He shows us how he was committed to worship God anyway.

I. An Unavoidable Calamity

:16 "I heard, and my inward parts trembled, at the sound my lips quivered. Decay enters my bones, and in my place I tremble. Because I must wait quietly for the day of distress, for the people to arise who will invade us."

Sometimes we might wish we knew the future, but Habakkuk shows us here why God doesn't usually allow us to know. As a prophet, he KNEW what was going to happen to his country.

Habakkuk lived about 700 years before the time of Christ, and it was one of the most difficult times in Bible history. The chosen people of God in Israel & Judah had turned away from God's word, and had been practicing idolatry and all kinds of other sins for generations, and despite God's warnings through His prophets, and many chastisements for their sins, they continued in them, and had not turned back. God is a very patient God, but as Psalm 103 says, "He will not always strive with us; He will not keep His anger forever." And after several hundred years, God's patience had run out. He told His people through several of His prophets, including Habakkuk, that judgment was coming on their land, and that their cities would be destroyed, many of them killed, and others carried away into captivity into Babylon, the nation God was going to use to punish them.

So, Habakkuk the prophet KNEW what was coming; he KNEW that Babylon was going to invade; He KNEW that many of his people were going to perish in the judgment that was coming; that his country was going to be devastated, and thousands, perhaps himself included, were going to be carried off as slaves into a foreign country. He knew that an "unavoidable calamity" was coming upon him and his people.

If we could see into the future, many of us here today might see similar things:

— we might see God's judgment come upon OUR land in the not-too-distant future, just like it did upon Judah. We've allowed literally millions of babies to be slaughtered in the wombs of their mothers through abortion. We've turned away from the scriptural foundations of our country for generations, just like Israel did. And can we think that the outcome is going to be any different for us than it was for them? No, I promise you, just like Jesus said, "Unless you repent, you will all likewise perish." If our country doesn't turn back, we WILL face a judgment just like Israel did. It will be an unavoidable calamity.

— Jesus Himself said, "In this world, you will have tribulation."

— Paul said in II Corinthians 4:16 "our outer man IS decaying." Our bodies ARE going to deteriorate; they will get sick, and they will die. And Paul said we are going to experience persecution: "All who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus WILL be persecuted."

The Bible never says Christians are never going to have any problems in this world. In fact, it pretty much promises that we WILL!

— Some difficulties come upon us because of our own direct sin. (We read this week about King David, who brought great tragedy into his life, and it was a direct consequence of his disobedience to God. Some of us are experiencing the same thing in our own lives. You've had calamities happen, and you know why they're there; you admit it; you know you brought it upon yourself.

— But then there are other calamities that happen to us that are NOT a direct result of our sin. It is just a consequence of the general effect of sin in our world. We read a few days ago where Romans says "the whole creation groans and suffers pains" because of the fall that creation experienced when man sinned. There IS suffering in this world. People DO get hurt; people WILL get sick; people suffer; people die; there is unavoidable calamity in this world. Even for Christian people, no matter how holy you are or how faithfully you serve. Don't let anyone tell you otherwise. There is "unavoidable calamity" that comes, even on God's people.

An Unwavering Commitment

But the remarkable thing here is, that in the face of this unavoidable calamity, Habakkuk had an unwavering commitment. He said, though all this was going to happen; though this people would arise who would invade them, he said:

"Though the fig tree should not blossom
And there be no fruit on the vines,
Though the yield of the olive should fail,
And the fields produce no food,
Though the flock should be cut off from the fold
And there be no cattle in the stalls,

YET I WILL EXULT IN THE LORD, I will rejoice in the God of my salvation."
THAT is an unwavering commitment to God by Habakkuk. He said, I know

these hard times are coming where we are going to lose all of our material blessings, food, cattle, and so on (and notice he did NOT say, "I'm claiming blossoms on the fig tree ... I'm claiming food in the fields ..." No; he knew the calamity was coming, and nothing he could say or do would stop it. But that was not the end. "YET"; he said — and how important that "yet" is! — "YET I will exult in YHWH; I will rejoice in the God of my salvation." Despite all he knew he was going to go through; his commitment was to worship God anyway.

THIS is what God wants to see from us as His people. Do you ever wonder what God is really looking for, when He looks down on earth? What does He like to see? Psalm 147:10 says "He does not delight in the strength of the horse; He does not take pleasure in the legs of a man." That tells us that God doesn't delight in the things that we do.

See, we human beings take pleasure in things like animals and sports, don't we? And there is nothing wrong with that, I don't think. And I know that we also have a lot of football fans, who are SO glad that Labor Day Weekend is here and that it is FINALLY football season, AMEN?!! We take pleasure in things like sports and animals — and I think that's ok, as long as we keep them in their proper place. But Psalm 147 says God doesn't delight in the strength of the horse; He doesn't take pleasure in the legs of a man. God does not get His delight from watching horses or football games like we do. So, what DOES He delight in? Psalm 147:11 goes on to say, "YHWH delights in those who fear Him; those who wait for His lovingkindness." God is delighted when He sees us — sometimes even in very difficult and painful and trying situations, when a lot of people would give up — just "waiting on Him;" looking to Him, and deciding to worship Him anyway! That's what He loves to see!

This helps explain a lot of things. It helps explain why, in Job 1, God told Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job?" See, God didn't delight in the "chariot races" or the Olympic wrestling championships He could've see on Mt. Olympus back in the days of ancient Greece. Instead, what God delighted in was in how Job respected Him, and worshiped Him. THIS is what God is looking for in mankind:

— God delights to see the kind of commitment that Job had, that even when he was smitten from his head to his toes, he said: "Though He slay me, yet I will hope in Him," anyway! (Job 13:15)

— God loves to see the kind of response that David had in Psalm 22, when he was suffering so much that he would call out, "My God, my God, why have You forsaken me." He was finding no deliverance, but he would still say in :3, "YET You are holy" and he would still worship Him anyway!

An Overcoming Strength

But listen: God does not just sit up there in heaven as a spectator and leave us to do the best we can on our own to try to get through our trials.

The story of the Gospel is that He came down from heaven in Jesus Christ, to die for our sins on the cross, and bring us to Himself, so that even though we are sinners, and will have a lot of troubles in this world, that we can know that one day we will escape this world, and will be with Him in glory forever.

He's saying, I will be with you in your trials: He'll be with us in the fiery furnace; He'll be with us in the lion's dean; He'll be with us in the storm.

Please hear me: God DOES NOT promise that you will not have troubles and difficulty here on earth. In fact, He pretty much promises that you WILL! But He says, if you will commit your life to Me, I will be with you, and I will strengthen you, and help you through those times — and when they're finished I'll bring you to My glory. But He'll strengthen us and be with us until that day. CONCLUSION:

"No matter what you are going through today let the LORD be your strength.

Habakkuk 3:18 &19 'yet I will rejoice in the LORD! I will be joyful in the God of
my Salvation! V19 The sovereign LORD is my strength!"

Some of you know that Mrs. Peggy lives in great pain, virtually every single day of her life. She has pain in her neck and shoulders that despite several operations, makes it difficult to sleep, or do anything. She can't even take most pain medications, so she just has to suffer with it. She is here for worship on Sunday mornings when she can be, and when she isn't, we know she is just in too much pain to be able to come that day. Whenever you're in church, and look over there and see she's not in her spot on Sunday morning, whisper a prayer for her.

But Peggy knows what Habakkuk is talking about, when she says: "Let the LORD be your strength." "Yet (even despite her daily pain) I will rejoice in the Lord." Virtually every single day, you see Peggy put up a post on Facebook from her daily Bible reading. See, she is seeking God every morning. She HAS to — when you're in pain like that, you HAVE to seek God; you have to seek His help. And God does help her: "the sovereign LORD is my strength." God does strengthen her. So many days, despite her pain, she makes crafts — some of you may have seen pictures on Facebook of the crafts she makes, or you might have seen them in the shop — she sells them at The Tea Tree in Glen Alpine, where all the proceeds go to local missions.

But see: THAT is what Christianity is all about right there. Despite what the televangelists will try to sell you, Christianity is not about always getting healed from every illness. That doesn't always happen in this life, and anyone who tries to tell you that, no matter how well-intentioned they are, is a deceiver. Christianity is not all about endless prosperity and healing here and now. Habakkuk shows us that, and if we're wise, we'll listen to him. What it IS about, is a committed belief in God through Jesus Christ, that says, "YET I will exult in the Lord" even when the fig tree doesn't blossom, and there is not a fruit on the vines. And it's about knowing that He will be with you, and will be the strength you need to carry you through the toughest of times you can face, until He brings you to glory.

Shawn Thomas is Senior Pastor at Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church in Morganton. His messages and devotionals are available at www.shawnethomas.com

Check out our new Website-www.brcnews.com

Burke United Christian Ministries

Thank Yous

By David Burleson

Burke County

As we wrap up the summer at Burke United Christian Ministries (BUCM), we are constantly reminded of the blessings we receive daily. One of the greatest blessings of our ministry is to have the opportunity to support, encourage and pray for those who need some additional support to make it from day to day. God continues to



provide the resources and encouragement needed to perform the ministry BUCM is called to do.

God continues to use our sustaining churches and donors to provide the resources we need to provide assistance to our Burke County neighbors who need assistance. Over 90% of our funding and support comes from individuals, families and churches. I would like to personally thank the following sustaining churches for supporting us financially, for providing meals in the soup kitchen and for their continual prayer for BUCM. The following are our sustaining churches:

Abee's Grove Baptist, Arney's Fairview UMC, Bethel Church of Christ, Bethel United Methodist Church, Bridge 42, Burkemont Baptist, Calvary Lutheran, Christ United Methodist, Crosslink Church, Cross Memorial Baptist, Denton's Chapel UMC, Drexel Christian Center, Drexel First Baptist, Drexel Memorial Baptist, Enon Baptist Church, Faith Community Church, First Advent Christian Church, First Assembly of God, First Baptist Church - Morganton, First Baptist Church - Valdese, First Presbyterian Church, First United Methodist - Morganton, First United Methodist-Valdese, Gaston Chapel AME Church, Gibbs Chapel Wesleyan, Glen Alpine United Methodist, Grace Baptist, Grace Episcopal, High Peak Baptist, Hopewell Baptist, In His Image Ministries, Linville United Methodist, Mission AME Missionary Methodist Church, Missionary Ridge Baptist, Morganton First Church of God, Mount Hebron Baptist Church, Mount Home Baptist, Mount Pleasant United Methodist, Mountain View Baptist Church #1, Mountain View Baptist Church #2Mull's Grove Baptist, New Day Christian Church, North Morganton United Methodist, Nowlings Chapel Freewill Baptist Church, Oak Hill United Methodist Church, Pleasant Hill Baptist, Pleasant Ridge Baptist, Rainhill Wesleyan Church, Salem United Methodist, Shiloh AME Church, Slades Chapel AME, Smart's Grove Baptist, Smyrna Baptist, Snow Hill United Methodist, St. Charles Catholic, St. Mary's/St. Stephen's Episcopal, St. Matthews United Methodist Church, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Summit Community Church, Table Rock Seventh Day Adventist, The Rising Church, Trinity Baptist Church, United Baptist, Victory Church Waldensian Presbyterian, Walker Road Baptist, Wilkies Grove Baptist, Zion Baptist, Zion Memorial United Methodist



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We are also extremely blessed by having the greatest group of volunteers possible. Without our volunteers, BUCM would be unable to function. Our volunteers are the life blood of the ministry. We are always needing additional volunteers to serve in a variety of areas. If anyone is interested in volunteering, just give me or Elizabeth Norris a call at (828) 433-8075 or email me at bucmdirector@gmail.com.

The stores and restaurants that support BUCM are also a tremendous blessing to our ministry. A big thank you goes out to the following for providing food for our soup kitchen and food pantry and for providing us with clothing:

Food Lion at Fiddler's Run, Food Lion on 181, Food Lion on Burkemont Road, Food Lion on the Bypass, Food Lion in Valdese, Food Matters Ingles, Wal-Mart Superstore, Neighborhood Wal-Mart, Little Caesars Pizza, Timberwoods Restaurant, Friday Friends Restaurant, Abeles Family Restaurant, The Pie Hole, Moon Doggies Pizza, Cato's, Toasted and Rolled

Without these stores and restaurants, BUCM would not be able to meet the needs of those we serve. We continue to search for additional food partners and ask any group interested in providing support with food or clothing to reach out to us.

BUCM has been blessed this summer with the opportunity to partner with the Burke County Schools, Burke United Way, the Outreach Center and the Burke Youth Opportunity Philanthropists at the Community Foundation of Burke County to support our students with back to school supplies and clothes. BUCM had the opportunity to assist almost 600 children with much needed back to school clothes, shoes and other items.

BUCM is very thankful of the progress we have made and appreciative of the support we receive daily from our partners - sustaining churches, donors and volunteers. Our ministry could not occur without these wonderful groups.

With these new opportunities at BUCM, we need the support of our community even more. Please consider being part of our BUCM ministry in one or more of the many things that need to be done. Call to find your fit.

The BUCM Christmas Elves have been hard at work crafting a multitude of decorations to meet your every need. Cringles Christmas Corner will open to the public on Monday, October 8 at 9 a.m. in the BUCM Clothing and Craft Store. Be sure to come out and purchase some of the best Christmas decorations that you can find east of Pigeon Forge. Also in preparation for the Christmas Holidays, Santa will be at the BUCM Clothing and Craft store on Saturday, December 1 from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. for pictures. Santa then will move to the BUCM soup kitchen for a breakfast with all those who would like to attend.

The second annual BUCM 5K Rivalry Run to Fight Hunger will be held on Saturday, November 17 at Freedom Park beginning at 9 a.m. This year's Rivalry Run concludes Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week and one main goal of the event is to raise awareness of how hunger and homelessness impacts Burke County. Burke United Christian Ministries will collect greatly needed food and clothes and provide a quality running experience off the asphalt. The needs of those in our community who can use a hand-up continues to grow. This event includes a 5K Run on the Freedom High School Cross Country Trail and a one mile fun run for children under the age of 14 on the track at Freedom Park. Adults and children will enjoy the safety and the healthy competition this race will provide.

Our hope is that this race will capture the rivalry of our four high schools and we can use this good-natured competition to help our community. Supporters of the high schools plus the "party crashers" (those with no affiliation to a Burke County High School) can earn points for the school of their choice by running, bringing non-perishable food, donating gently used clothes or making a monetary contribution. The school with the most points will receive the traveling trophy to display for one year. We are very fortunate to have a community that cares about others and is willing to demonstrate that care through service. Anyone interested in the race please go to our website, bucm.net for more information.

We want to invite a representative from any church to come to our Desert and Tour event on Thursday, October 11 at 12:30 p.m. in the BUCM soup kitchen. This will provide an opportunity for a time of fellowship, discussions about our ministry and a time to review recent renovations.

Please remember to keep BUCM and me in your thoughts and prayers. There are many difficult decisions we are called on to make and through prayer we can continue to make the appropriate decisions for our ministry. Please know that we are very willing to come and tell the BUCM story at any church or organization. Just let us know a good time to do this.

Thank you again for making BUCM a wonderful, caring place for others.

David Burleson is Director of Burke United Christian Ministries



Gardner-Webb University - Office of Communications & Media Relations

GWU Hosts Man Who Survived Suicide Jump From Golden Gate Bridge

Contact: Jackie Bridges

Kevin Hines Shares His Story to 'Instill Hope' and Advocate for Mental Health

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C.—Kevin Hines is one of the few people to jump off the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco, Calif., and survive the suicide attempt. Hines will describe what led him to consider taking his own life and discuss "The Art of Wellness" in a program on Oct. 1

at 7 p.m. at Gardner-Webb University. The event is free and open to the public and will be held in the Paul Porter Arena at Lutz-Yelton Convocation Center.

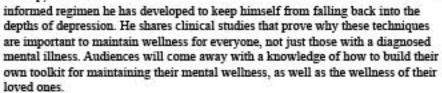
In the 18 years since his survival, Hines has shared his story all over the world in various settings to students, clergy, military, clinicians, health and medical professionals, law enforcement and business leaders. He's also written a book about his struggle with bipolar disorder, "Cracked Not Broken," and produced a documentary, "Suicide: The Ripple Effect."

"My goal is to try to instill hope in at least one individual," Hines shared, "so that one individual says, 'Maybe I can stay here, maybe there are tools to fight this."

Hines' appearance at Gardner-Webb was arranged by Brian Arnold, director of Student Activities, Campus Recreation and New Student Orientation. He and the rest of the Student Activities staff invited Hines to campus after hearing about his story. The event is co-sponsored by GWU Student Activities, Cleveland County (N.C.) Schools and Partners Behavioral Health in Gastonia, N.C.

The goal of the program is to open lines of communication on mental health topics. "It is important to create a safe environment for people to seek help," offered Cindy Wallace, director of the GWU Counseling Center. "Our desire is to create an atmosphere in our community of support and understanding."

Additionally, Hines will discuss the 10-step, evidence-



Auxiliary aids will be made available to persons with disabilities upon request 48 hours prior to the event. Please call 704-406-4253 or email servicerequests@gardner-webb.edu with your request.

Located in the North Carolina foothills, Gardner-Webb University is a private, Christian, liberal arts university that prepares students to become critical thinkers, effective leaders and compassionate servants in the global community. Emphasizing a strong student-centered experience and rigorous academics, Gardner-Webb ignites learning and service opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students. Ignite your future at Gardner-Webb.edu.

Kevin Hines is a public speaker who advocates for no suicide. He manages the Kevin Hines Story and Mental Health Marvels.

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



Freedom Life Ministries

Awarded Janirve Sudden and Urgent Needs Grant

By Danny Hampton McDowell County

Marion, NC - Freedom Life Ministries was recently awarded a grant from the Janirve Sudden and Urgent Needs (SUN) Grant Program to replace a failed HVAC unit. The old unit failed during a sustained heat wave and allowed restored use of the Freedom Life Community Room to its full functional capability. The room is a

vital tool for operations for things such as ongoing support group meetings, community collaboration meetings, staff meetings and one-on-one client meetings.

Freedom Life is a local ministry that helps justice involved individuals - people who were incarcerated and may have trouble finding employment. Freedom Life services include prison ministry, addiction counseling, job training, support groups. After clients complete the program, they receive assistance to find permanent employment. New clients then enter the program and continue the training/employment cycle.

"We are so thankful for the financial support from the Janirve Sudden and Urgent Needs (SUN) Grant Program," said Danny Hampton, Executive Director of Freedom Life Ministries. "This will allow us to continue our work within the local community."

For more information about Freedom Life, visit their website at www.freedomlifeministries.com.

Reverend Danny Hampton is the Chaplain at Marion Minimum Center (Prison) and the Executive Director of Freedom Life Ministries.



Sudoku

Solution on page 14

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Burke County Schools

14th Best School District

By Cheryl Shuffler Burke County

A national platform for researching schools, neighborhoods and companies has ranked Burke County Public Schools 14th on its list of best school districts in North Carolina, Niche.com released its new 2019 Best Schools ranking last month.

In its fifth year, Niche's Best Schools rankings analyzed U.S. Department of Education data, supplemental

data collected directly from more than 4,000 schools, and millions of student and parent reviews across factors such as academics, teachers and safety.

Niche.com gives Burke County Public Schools an A in diversity and Bs for academics, teachers, clubs and activities, administration, food, college prep, health and safety, sports and resources and facilities. Individually, 25 mainstream schools in the district received either an A or B from the website.

Reviewers on Niche.com praised Burke County Public Schools' teachers and administrators, saying they are trustworthy, easy to talk to and helpful, and students feel prepared for the next level of their education.

Burke County Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Larry Putnam said, "We are proud of our top 15 ranking on Niche. com, and we are in good company with great schools districts such as Chapel Hill-Carrboro, Wake and Asheville City, We will not rest on those laurels. As we are now in our second week of



a brand new school year, and our principals have set high expectations for 2018-19. We have only good things ahead of us in year two of our district strategic plan, which centers on students. Our goal is to provide our students with a safe and supportive learning environment, where a world-class level of service and technology will allow us to remain a leader in our region, and competitive in our state and nation."

The No. 14th state ranking for Burke County Public Schools is out of 116 school districts. The website also ranks Burke County Public Schools 22nd in the safest school districts category and 25th in the best teachers category.

Just a few highlights for the new school year include:

- The opening of Mountain View Elementary School and the Global Immersion Academy.
- The Burke County Public Schools internship program, which connects students with internships at local business and industry.
- Breakfast on the Go in all elementary schools and Second Chance Breakfast at most all secondary schools, plus Universal Breakfast at all schools, which means breakfast is free for all students.
- Continued committed to the safety and wellbeing of all students, staff and visitors on our school campuses and on our buses to and from school
- Zero tolerance for bullying. Anyone can report an incident of bullying at: http:// www.burke.k12.nc.us/parents/parents/bullying

Supper program transitions to Mountain View

Morganton, NC - Friday, Sept. 7, 2018

Mountain View Elementary School's cafeteria will soon ring the bell for three meals a day. Burke County Public Schools and Chartwells has moved its Eat Well After the Bell supper program to Mountain View Elementary School, 805 Bouchelle St., Morganton, adding a late-afternoon/early-evening meal to its

breakfast and lunch programs. The supper program is open to anyone in the community and is free to all children ages 3 to 18. The supper price is \$3 for adults. The hot meal is served from 3 to 6 p.m. each week on school days starting Wednesday, Sept. 12. The program also includes a homework club and enrichment



activities from 3:45 to 4:30 p.m. each day.

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

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

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

Starting Monday, Sept. 17, the supper program also will be available at Walter Johnson Middle School.

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



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Grace Community Church

Forgiveness 5 4 1

By Jerry Lewis McDowell County

The Unpacking Forgiveness sermon series is bringing up all kinds of questions. I'm so glad. Feel free to email me (jerry@ graceforall.org) with your questions. I'll try to answer them here at enoughfortoday.org.

Can you forgive an unrepentant person? What if someone has hurt you deeply, or is still hurting you, but is unrepentant? They know what they have done (you've told them ...or it's

obvious) but they refuse to accept responsibility. Can you forgive such a person?

First of all, let's define forgiveness. I'll give you the short and the long definition. My favorite (short) definition of forgiveness is this: the refusal to punish someone for something they've done to you. We punish usually by our words. When someone hurts us, we hurt them-by the things we say to them or about them. My favorite (long) definition of forgiveness: "When do we forgive others? When we strive against all thoughts of revenge; when we will not do our enemies mischief, but wish well to them, grieve at their calamities, pray for them, seek reconciliation with them, and show ourselves ready on all occasions to relieve them. (Thomas Watson, Body of Divinity)

Romans 12:18 says, "If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all."

So, what does this mean for the unrepentant person? In short, you can't give someone what they cannot receive. John Piper says, "When a person who wronged us does not repent with contrition and confession and conversion, he cuts off the full work of forgiveness." As such, you cannot forgive an unrepentant person. Now I know what some of you are thinking. Whew! I didn't want to. Now I'm off the hook.

Not so quick! Notice Watson's definition and Romans 12:18. The phrases "strive against all revenge" and " so far as it depends on you" show up. While you cannot forgive an umrepentant person, you must release them. Piper again says, "We can still lay down our ill will; we can hand over our anger to God; we can seek to do him good; but we cannot carry through reconciliation or intimacy."

While you cannot give someone what he is unwilling to receive, the question is are you really willing to give it? Piper breaks down Watson's definition like this:

Here is forgiveness: when you feel that someone is your enemy or when you simply feel that you or someone you care about has been wronged, forgiveness means:

- 1. resisting revenge
- not returning evil for evil,
- wishing them well,
- grieving at their calamities
- praying for their welfare,
- seeking reconciliation so far as it depends on you,
- 7, and coming to their aid in distress.

Ouch. This requires a real heart check.









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Parkway Playhouse Presents Chocolate Sensation: A Season Celebration

By Hunter Taylor, Education Coordinator Yancey County

BURNSVILLE, NC: Chocolate Sensation: A Season

Our 72nd Parkway Playhouse season has almost ended and it's time to celebrate!

Kick up your heels, get ready to party, and bring your sweet tooth to our 2nd Annual Chocolate Sensation and Season Celebration on Friday, October 12 from 6:30 to 8:30. We invite you

to spend a decadent evening with staff and board members. The evening will feature entertainment by the young, up and coming Mary Poppins, Jr actors, the announcement of our 2019 Season, silent & live auctions, and dancing to music by The Bob Early Band.

Raise your glass to the arts! Join us in recognizing the benefit the arts play in entertaining our community, educating our youth, and providing rewarding theatre opportunities for all ages. Mostly, though, kick up your heels and have some fun dancing in Burnsville!

RSVP if you plan to attend, so we're sure to have enough food and drink for everyone. Please email rsvp@parkwayplayhouse.com or call (828) 682-4285 to let us know you're coming.

Suggested \$25 donation per person. We will accept cash, checks, and credit/ debit cards at the Welcome Table on the evening of the event.

For more information about Parkway Playhouse, including performances, classes, and volunteer opportunities, please call 828-682-4285 or visit the Parkway Playhouse website at www.parkwayplayhouse.com.

Hunter is the new Coordinator of Education at the Parkway Playhouse.

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