



January

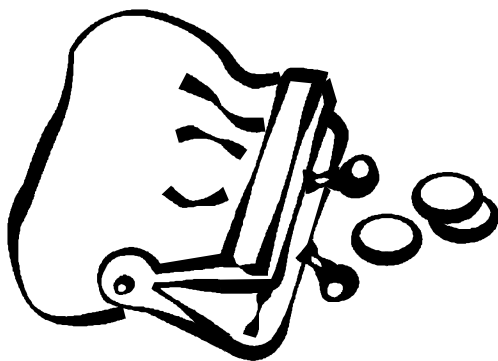
New Sterling Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church

The Stirling

57 Cents

A little girl stood near a small church from which she had been turned away because it was "too crowded." "I can't go to Sunday school," she sobbed to the pastor as he walked by. Seeing her shabby, unkempt appearance, the pastor guessed the reason and, taking her by the hand, took her inside and found a place for her in the Sunday school class. The child was so happy that they found room for her, and she went to bed that night thinking of the children who have no place to worship Jesus.

Some two years later, this child lay dead in one of the poor tenement buildings. Her parents called for the kindhearted pastor who had befriended their daughter to handle the final arrangements. As her poor little body was being moved, a worn and



crumpled red purse was found which seemed to have been rummaged from some trash dump. Inside was found 57 cents and a note, scribbled in childish handwriting, which read, "This is to help build the little church bigger so more children can go to Sunday School." For two years she had saved for this offering of love.

When the pastor tearfully read that note, he knew instantly what he would do. Carrying this note and the cracked, red pocket-book to the pulpit, he told the story of her unselfish love and devotion. He challenged his deacons to get busy and raise enough money for the larger building. But the story does not end there...

A newspaper learned of the story and published it. It was read by a wealthy realtor who offered them a parcel of land worth many thousands. When told that the church could not pay so much, he offered to sell it to the little church for 57 cents.

Church members made large donations. Checks came from far and wide. Within five years the little girl's gift had increased to \$250,000 -- a huge sum for that time (near the turn of the last century). Her unselfish love had paid large dividends.

When you are in the city of Philadelphia, look up Temple Baptist Church, with a seating capacity of 3,300. And be sure to visit Temple University, where thousands of students are educated. Have a look, too, at the Good Samaritan Hospital and at a Sunday school building which houses hundreds of beautiful children, built so that no child in the area will ever need to be left outside during Sunday school time.

In one of the rooms of this building one can see the picture of the sweet face of the little girl whose 57 cents, so sacrificially saved, made such remarkable history. Alongside is a portrait of her kind pastor, Dr. Russell H. Conwell, author of the book, "Acres of Diamonds".

This is a true story, which goes to show WHAT GOD CAN DO WITH 57 CENTS.

We should always feel good about the start of a new year.

To many of us, January is the eraser God provides to wipe the slate clean.

RECIPE FOR A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Author Unknown

Take twelve whole months.

Clean them thoroughly of all bitterness, hate, and jealousy.

Make them just as fresh and clean as possible.

Now cut each month into twenty-eight, thirty, or
thirty-one different parts,

but don't make up the whole batch at once.

Prepare it one day at a time out of these ingredients.

Mix well into each day one part of faith,
one part of patience, one part of courage,
and one part of work.

Add to each day one part of hope,
faithfulness, generosity, and kindness.

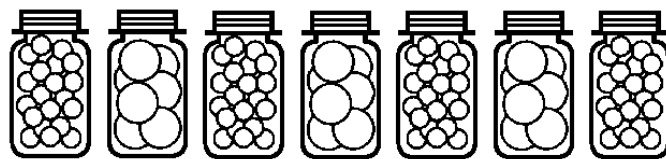
Blend with one part prayer, one part meditation,
and one good deed.

Season the whole with a dash of good spirits,
a sprinkle of fun, a pinch of play,
and a cup full of good humor.

Pour all of this into a vessel of love.

Cook thoroughly over radiant joy,
garnish with a smile,
and serve with quietness, unselfishness,
and cheerfulness.

You're bound to have a Happy New Year.



Reaching out to others doesn't mean we adopt all their problems as our own....Sometimes we can help others through the smallest — or silliest — acts of kindness.

Decorating the Fellowship Hall



Nursery



Pre-School



K-1



Grades 2-3



Grades 4-5



Junior High



Senior High

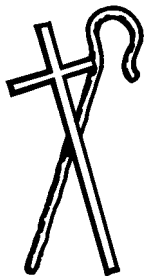


Young Adult





Ordination and Installation of Deacons



Newly ordained and installed Deacons (from left): Scott Snyder, Brian Setzer and Adrian Jarrett. Newly installed deacon: Derek Winters

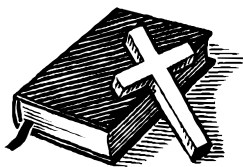


ORDINATION



Gifts OF Love

Judy Watson recently received a Love Gift from the congregation for her hard work and dedication for the Church.



The Worship Committee is prepared to place new Bibles in our pew racks. If you would like to purchase one or more as a memorial or honorarium, there is a sign up list outside the Chapel Bible Class or contact Jeff McNeely at 704-872-7494.



IN RECOGNITION

I would like to offer my sincere thanks to two special ladies who make our Communion Services possible. To Milderiene Pope who makes the grape juice we use for each service and to my wife, Muriel Jenkins, who prepares and bakes the Communion bread. These tasks are not easy and are very time consuming. I appreciate very much their

time and commitment to help make this service possible for us at New Sterling.
Lynn Jenkins



OBITUARY FOR COMMON SENSE

Today we mourn the passing of an old friend, by the name of Common Sense. Common Sense lived a long life but died from heart failure on the brink of the millennium. No one really knows how old he was since his birth records were long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape. He selflessly devoted his life to service in schools, hospitals, homes, factories and offices, helping folks get jobs done without fanfare and foolishness.

For decades, petty rules, silly laws and frivolous lawsuits held no power over Common Sense. He was credited with cultivating such valued lessons as to know when to come in out of the rain, the early bird gets the worm, and life isn't always fair. Common Sense lived by simple, sound financial policies (don't spend more than you earn), reliable parenting strategies (the adults are in charge, not the kids), and its okay to come in second.

A veteran of the Industrial Revolution, the Great Depression, and the Technological Revolution, Common Sense survived cultural and educational trends including body piercing, whole language and "new math." In recent decades his waning strength proved no match for the ravages of overbearing regulations. He watched in pain as good people became ruled by bureaucrats.



His health rapidly deteriorated when schools endlessly implemented zero tolerance policies, reports of six year old boys charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate, a teen suspended for taking a swig of mouthwash after lunch, and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student. It declined even further when schools had to get parental consent to administer aspirin to a student but cannot inform the parent when the female student is pregnant or wants an abortion.

Finally, Common Sense lost his will to live as the Ten Commandments became contraband, churches became businesses, criminals received better treatment than victims, and federal judges stuck their noses in everything from Boy Scouts to professional sports. Finally a woman who did not realize that coffee is hot and was awarded a huge pay-out caused Common Sense to finally throw in the towel. As the end neared, Common Sense drifted in and out of logic but was kept informed of developments, regarding questionable regulations for asbestos, low flow toilets, bicycle helmets and mandatory air bags.

Common Sense was preceded in death by his parents Truth and Trust; his wife, Discretion; his daughter, Responsibility; and his son, Reason. He is survived by three stepbrothers: My Rights, Tolerance and Whiner.

Not many attended his funeral because so few realized he was gone.

Some things to think about.... Pastor Tim

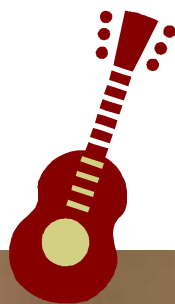
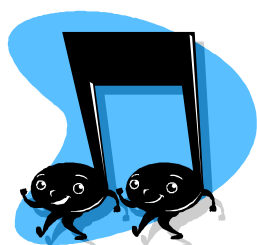
Christmas Cantata



On December 17, the choir performed their cantata "Christmas is Jesus".



Comtemporary Christian Choir (C3)



On December 3, C3 performed "Your Name", by Philip, Craig and Dean





Leroy Johnson has been recovering from shingles....**Jacob McNeely** went hunting with **Chuck Carter**, Cindy's brother and shot his first deer. If anyone has any good recipes for venison, pass them on to Cindy....**Elena Johnson** has spent time in the hospital after falling and breaking her pelvis....**Lynn Jenkins** must have a target on his house. A lady turned around in his drive and backed into and knocked down his brick columns. The next week someone wiped out his mailbox..... **Anthony Brady** recently had kidney stones.....**Doug Gryder** recently spent time in Germany on company business.....**Dale Massey**

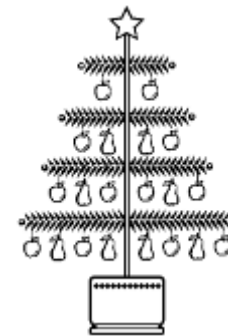
was elected Vice-President of the West Iredell Ruitan Club and **Lynn Jenkins** was elected song leader....**Havery Reese's** office flooded at work after pipes bursted....**Doris McNeely** spent Christmas in California with son **Gary** and wife....The **Ken Haucks** traveled to Pennsylvania for Christmas to visit family....At a recent Knit Wit meeting at **Delinda Mauney's**, **Sherry Clark** was offered something to drink out of the best glass in the house and she refused to drink out of the glass. Could it be because it was Carolina Blue???.....The **Adult Choir** presented a beautiful Cantata entitled "Christmas Is Jesus".....The **Donnellys** traveled out of town for Christmas....Ask **Kent Clark** how Christmas music effects him.....The **Children's Choir** presented a wonderful program entitled "The First Leon — Uncovering The True Meaning of Christmas"....What was that wonderful smell coming from **Muriel Jenkins'** home the week before Christmas? Could it be the bread baker, **Muriel**, up at 5:30 each morning baking bread for Christmas gifts? Everyone should have just rode by and smelled.....**Kim Brady** and **Delinda Mauney** made a trip to Kernersville to visit Mrs. Billings before Christmas.....New Sterling officers for 2007 were Congregational Chairman, **Scott Graham**, Treasurer, **Dawn Keller**, Financial Secretary, **Craig Pugh**..... New Deacons elected were **Brian Setzer**, **Adrian Jarrett**, **Derick Winters** and **Scott Snyder**...Elders elected were **Kent Clark** and **Harvey Reese**.....**Jacob McCulloch**, son of **Todd McCulloch**, who is a senior at ECU had lunch with Warren Buffet last month. Since Jacob had the highest GPA in his class, he got to ride in his car to lunch with Mr. Buffet, who is one of the richest men in the world.....The new American and Christian Flags in the sanctuary were given in memory of **Boyce & Victoria Johnson**, **Glenn Johnson**, **Bob Godfrey** and in honor of **Leroy Johnson** by **Kathleen J. King**, **Stuart (Buddy) & Karen K. Graves**, **Elena Johnson** and **Betty J. Godfrey**...**Bailey Hartness** and her cheerleading squad finished 2nd place at their cheerleading competition in Fayetteville, NC. They earned enough points to get a bid to nationals in Myrtle Beach in April. Their next competition is this month in Asheville....The New Sterling congregation was very happy to return to their recently renovated sanctuary on December 10. It was a job well done by **Jimmy Gray**, members of the **Property & Maintenance Committee**, **Deacons** and others who helped in the restoration and cleanup. Our many thanks for a beautiful job.....**Lynn Jenkins** recently had an encounter with a table saw and a piece of wood. If you look at his lip, I think you will agree that the wood won!! Oooorrrrr was it **Muriel**?...**Edith Reese** underwent surgery on 12/22/06 to amputate her arm at the shoulder. It seems that when she fell in June and broke her arm that she had gotten an infection in it and the only way to cure it was to amputate. Our thoughts are with her...**Jim and Jane Mayhew** became new members of New Sterling on December 24th..... **Larry Watts** recently had surgery on his hand after an accident....**Olean Deal** had a cornea transplant....**Terry Jenkins** came to visit Olean over Christmas.....

HERE AND THERE AT NEW STERLING

Children's Christmas Program



The children performed
"Once Upon a Leon" on
December 17.



As always the Women of the Church did a wonderful job decorating the Christmon tree. It looked beautiful in our newly renovated sanctuary.



We would like to thank Jimmy Gray and the Property & Maintenance Committee for the work they did in the restoration of the Sanctuary. It was a job well done and the results were beautiful.

Also thanks go out to Jimmy and committee, Deacons and all others who helped in this project and especially the clean up and last minute details to make ready for us to be in the Sanctuary on December 10.

Of special note is the pulpit shown to the left. This pulpit was originally used in the old Sanctuary. It was refurbished by Alex Arrington. This pulpit was originally built in 1903 by Dillon Morrison who at that time was a member of New Sterling. This information can be found in the book, "Stirling to Stirling". Thank you Pastor Tim for encouraging the Property & Maintenance committee to bring it out of hiding to use in our new sanctuary.

This came too late for me to use in December but it bears reading for the new year. Delinda

Dear children,

It has come to my attention that many of you are upset that folks are taking My name out of the season. Maybe you've forgotten that I wasn't actually born during this time of the year and that it was some of your predecessors who decided to celebrate My birthday on what was actually a time of pagan festival. Although I do appreciate being remembered anytime.

How I personally feel about this celebration can probably be most easily understood by those of you who have been blessed with children of your own. I don't care what you call the day. If you want to celebrate My birth just, **GET ALONG AND LOVE ONE ANOTHER**. Now, having said that let Me go on.

If it bothers you that the town in which you live doesn't allow a scene depicting My birth, then just get rid of a couple of Santas and snowmen and put in a small Nativity scene on your own front lawn. If all My followers did that there wouldn't be any need for such a scene on the town square because there would be many of them all around town.

Stop worrying about the fact that people are calling the tree a holiday tree, instead of a Christmas tree. It was I who made all trees. You can & may remember Me anytime you see any tree. Decorate a grape vine if you wish: I actually spoke of that one in a teaching explaining who I am in relation to you & what each of our tasks were. If you have forgot that one, look up John 15: 1 - 8.

If you want to give Me a present in remembrance of My birth here is my wish list. Choose something from it:

1. Instead of writing protest letters objecting to the way My birthday is being celebrated, write letters of love and hope to soldiers away from home. They are terribly afraid and lonely this time of year. I know, they tell Me all the time.
2. Visit someone in a nursing home. You don't have to know them personally. They just need to know that someone cares about them.
3. Instead of writing George complaining about the wording on the cards his staff sent out this year, why don't you write and tell him that you'll be praying for him and his family this year. Then follow up. It will be nice hearing from you again.
4. Instead of giving your children a lot of gifts you can't afford and they don't need, spend time with them. Tell them the story of My birth, and why I came to live with you down here. Hold them in your arms and remind them that I love them.
5. Pick someone that has hurt you in the past and forgive him or her.
6. Did you know that someone in your town will attempt to take their own life this season because they feel so alone and hopeless? Since you don't know who that person is, try giving everyone you meet a warm smile it could make the difference. Also, you might consider supporting the local Hot-Line: they talk with people like that every day.
7. Instead of nit picking about what the retailer in your town calls the holiday, be patient with the people who work there. Give them a warm smile and a kind word. Even if they aren't allowed to wish you a "Merry Christmas" that doesn't keep you from wishing them one. Then stop shopping there on Sunday. If the store didn't make so much money on that day they'd close and let their employees spend the day at home with their families.
8. If you really want to make a difference, support a missionary, especially one who takes My love & Good News to those who have never heard My name. You may already know someone like that.
9. Here's a good one. There are individuals & whole families in your town who not only will have no "Christmas" tree, but neither will they have any presents to give or receive. If you don't know them (and I suspect you don't) buy some food & a few gifts & give them to the Marines, the Salvation Army or some other charity which believes in Me & they will make the delivery for you.
10. Finally if you want to make a statement about your belief in and loyalty to Me, then behave like a Christian. Don't do things in secret that you wouldn't do in My presence. Let people know by your actions that you are one of mine.

P.S. Don't forget; I am God and can take care of Myself. Just love Me & do what I have told you to do. I'll take care of all the rest. Check out the list above & get to work; time is short. I'll help you, but the ball is now in your court. And do have a most blessed Christmas with all those whom you love and remember

I LOVE YOU

God

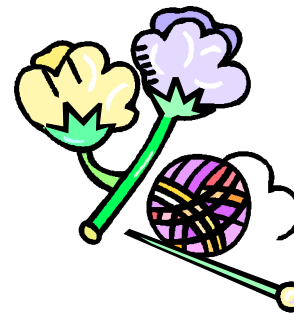


Knit Wit News

The knit wits presented a prayer shawl to Iris Roarer, mother of Cindy Hardin.



One of the Knit Wit meetings in December was held at Marcia Winters



With Sympathy

We express sympathy to the family of Mrs. Mary Lippard who went to be with our Lord on December 11, 2006. Mrs. Lippard's sister is Edith Milholland.

We also express sympathy to Mr. Franklin Beatty and his family in the passing of his brother, Paige Beatty.

And to Betty Godfrey in the passing of her neice, Linda Johnson.



Do you ever ask your child what they learn in church? Maybe you should. The stories are very interesting.



LOT'S WIFE

The Sunday School teacher was describing how Lot's wife looked back and turned into a pillar of salt when little Jason interrupted, "My mummy looked back once while she was driving," he announced triumphantly, "and she turned into a telephone pole!"

DID NOAH FISH?

A Sunday School teacher asked, "Johnny, do you think Noah did a lot of fishing when he was on the Ark?"

"No," replied Johnny, "How could he with only two worms?"

GOOD SAMARITAN

A Sunday School teacher was telling her class the story of the Good Samaritan in which a man was beaten, robbed and left for dead. She described the situation in vivid detail so her students would catch the drama. Then she asked the class, "If you saw a person lying on the roadside all wounded and bleeding, what would you do?"

A thoughtful little girl broke the hushed class, "I think I would thrown up!"

THE COMFORTER

Sunday after church a mother who had not felt well enough to go to church, asked her very young daughter what the sermon was about. The daughter answered her mother, "Don't be worried, you'll get your quilt."

Needless to say the mother was perplexed. She happened to see their pastor at the store the next day and she asked him the title of his sermon the day before. He answered, "Be not afraid, thy comforter is coming."

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

A Sunday School teacher decided to have her young class memorize one of the most quoted passages in the Bible...Psalm 23.

She gave the youngsters a month to learn the verse. Little Rick was excited about the task but he just couldn't remember the Psalm. After much practice he could barely get past the first line.

On the day the kids were scheduled to recite the Psalm in front of the congregation, Rick was very nervous. When it was his turn he stepped up to the microphone and said proudly, "The Lord is my Shepherd and that's all I need to know!"



HIGHER POWER

A Sunday School teacher said to her children, "We have been learning how powerful kings and queens were in Bible times but there is a 'higher power.' Can anybody tell me what it is?"

One child blurted out, "Aces!"

MOSES & THE RED SEA

Nine year old Joey was asked by his mother what he had learned in Sunday School that day.

"Well, Mom, our teacher told us how God sent Moses behind enemy lines on a rescue mission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. When he got to the Red Sea he had his army build a pontoon bridge and all the people walked across safely. Then he radioed headquarters for reinforcements. They sent bombers to blow up the bridge and all the Israelites were saved."

"Now, Joey, is that *really* what your teacher taught you?"

"Well, no, Mom, but the way the teacher told it you'd never believe it!"

CHURCH SMILES

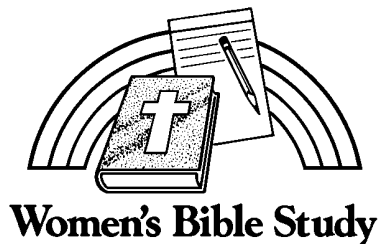
There was a very gracious lady who was mailing an old family Bible to her brother in Texas.

"Is there anything breakable in here?" asked the postal clerk.

"Only the Ten Commandments," answered the elderly lady.



*Give me a sense of humor, Lord,
Give me the grace to see a joke,
To get some humor out of life,
And pass it on to other folk.*



**NEW STERLING
WOMEN'S MINISTRIES**
By Sheila Snyder and Peggy Gray



New Sterling WM gathered in the Fellowship Hall at 6:30 PM on December 11 for the annual Christmas party. The installation of the 2007 Women's Ministries Officers was performed by Rachel Spencer, a past Presbyterian President and a past WOC president at Covenant ARP Church in Statesville. Mrs. Spencer used candles for emphasis.

President : Sheila Snyder

Secretary Jessica Graham

Treasurer Michelle Hairyes

ARP WM President Peggy Gray

Circle Chairmen: Kim Brady, Kitzi Emery, Jane Fulbright, Aarene Reese, Swanie Snyder, Judy Watson and Marcia Winters

Peggy Gray presented the devotional thought for the evening which centered around Luke 1:39-56, the 3 month visit of Mary to Elizabeth. Following the delicious Salad and Dessert Dinner, Peggy gave an update on the Purpose Statement, the work of the Planning Board, the Report to the Session and the four circles that have formed following the four month planning and the one month long sign-up.

Sheila Snyder asked the four circles to break out to plan for the January meeting. For the program, women gathered around the piano and sung carols, accompanied by Susan Pugh. Secret Sisters exchanged gifts and Judy Watson closed the meeting with prayer.

January Schedule

Monday, Jan. 8 @ 9:30 a.m. Golden Christian Circle meets in Fellowship Hall with Swanie Snyder hosting and Bible Study led by Virginia Brady.

Circle Members: Swanie Snyder, Chm., Dorothy Beatty, Florence Brookshire, Pauline Charles, Dot Dagenhart, Olene Deal, Becky Gray, Esteline Jenkins, Elena Johnson, Harriet Linderman, Juanita Massey, Maude McNeely, Edith Milholland, Avis Pope, Birchie Pope, Lynn Pope, Meldirene Pope, Minnie Pope, Lucille Reese, Pat Sherrill, Marilyn Teague, Louanne Watts.

Tuesday, Jan. 9 @ 7:00 p.m. Apples of Gold Circle meets with Judy Watson. Study will be led by Kim Brady and Judy Watson.

Circle Members: Kim Brady and Judy Watson, Co. Chm., Betty Godfrey, Jessica Graham, Jill Hager, Linda Harper, Michelle Hairyes, Jeanette Hauck, Terry Hoke, Kim Honeycutt, Delinda Mauney, Cindy McNeely, Wendy Pope, Susan Pugh, Taryn Setzer.

Tuesday, Jan. 16 @ 7:00 p.m. Mary-Martha Sunset Circle meets with Judy Stewart. Study will be led by Sherry Clarke.

Circle Members: Jane Fulbright and Marcia Winters, Co. Chm., B.J. Brewer, Nicki Campbell, Sherry Clarke, Melissa Donnelly, Melissa Henderson, Kim Honeycutt, Brandy Lackey, Jane Mayhew, Kathy Pope, Pat Price, Judy Stewart and Julie Winters.

Wednesday, Jan. 17 @10:00 a.m. Mary-Martha Sunrise Circle meets with Peggy Gray. Study will be led by Kitzi Emery. Circle Members : Kitzi Emery and Aarene Reese, Co. Chm., Virginia Brady, Tena Campbell, Peggy Gray, Muriel Jenkins, Cora Poovey, Betty Sides.

Homebound and Assisted Living

Norma and Johnsie Jenkins
1753 Midway Road
Stony Point, NC 28678
704-585-6960

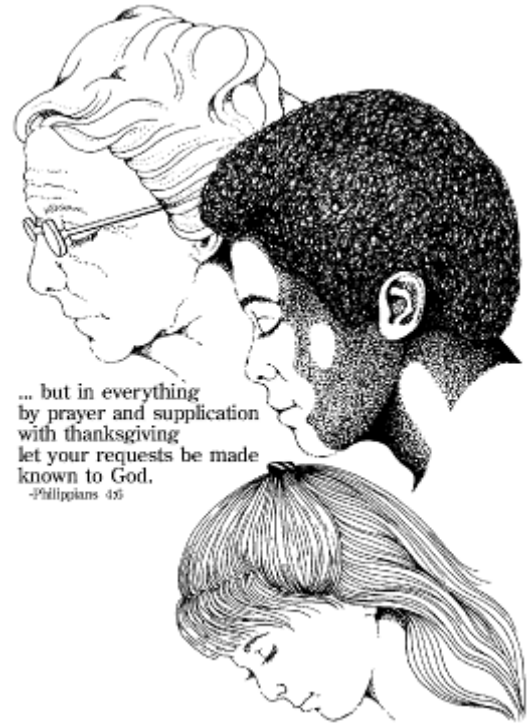
Leroy Johnson
Autumn Care
2001 Van Haven Drive
Statesville, NC 28625
704-878-2321

Doris Ingram
Statesville Place
2441 East Broad Street
Statesville, NC 28625

Pauline Pope
Autumn Care
2001 Vanhaven Drive
Statesville, NC 28625

Mary Deal
Autumn Care
2001 Van Haven Drive
Statesville, NC 28625

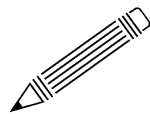
Edith Reese
PO Box 346
Buford, GA 30515



If we have missed anyone or you would like to have your name listed here, please contact
Delinda Mauney at 704-880-0527 or Taryn Setzer at 459-2637

Address for Bobby Buchanan:

Robert Lewis Buchanan
PO Box 310
Polkton, NC 28135



*How
beautiful on the
mountains are
the feet of those
who bring
good news.*

Isaiah 52:7

PRICELESS GIFTS TO GIVE FOR FREE

***The gift of prayer. Let your friends and
loved ones know you pray for them —
and then do it!***

January Birthdays

2 Kristi Byers
 2 Shane Stewart
 3 Rex Jenkins
 4 Garrett Deal
 4 Casey Hilderbrand
 8 Lori Compton
 9 Doug Gryder
 10 Leroy Johnson
 10 Greg Waugh
 16 Bill Cashion
 16 Gary McNeely



18 Cheri Caldwell
 18 Harold Moose
 18 Sarah Watts
 19 Kayla Reavis
 19 Madison Winters
 24 Johnsie Jenkins
 25 Lewis Jenkins
 26 Clifton Mauney
 28 Todd Fulbright
 29 Harold Sherrill
 31 Bradley Fulbright

Sarah Watts
 Campus Box 15880
 Lee Hall
 Raleigh, NC 27607
 NC State University

Erin Waugh
 UCC
 245 Memorial Drive
 Suite 6770
 Cullowhee, NC 28720
 Western Carolina University

Kelly Pugh
 9238 Campus Edge Circle
 Charlotte, NC 28262
 University of NC Charlotte



**Remember our College
 Students with a note or a
 card.**

Clifton Mauney
 1401 Riverstreet Apt. #52
 Wilkesboro, NC 28697
 Wilkes Community College

Erica Harper
 9238 Campus Edge Circle
 Charlotte, NC 28262
 University of NC Charlotte

Andrea Clarke
 CPO 679
 Erskine College
 PO Box 1001
 Due West, SC 29639