

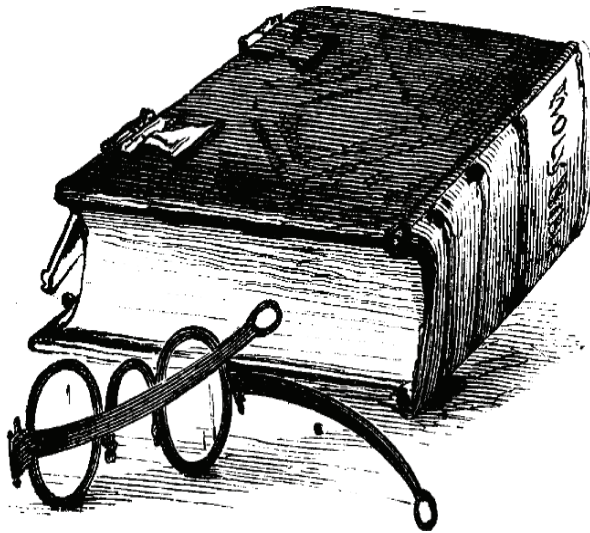


July
2008

The Indispensable Word of God

The theme of this year's Synod Meeting was The Indispensable Word of God. This theme will be communicated throughout the year in articles in our ARP magazine so I encourage each of you to read them as they come along.

Personally, I am pleased that our Moderator Gordon Query from Columbia, SC submitted this as his theme. I am also glad that, as a denomination, we are aware of the ever changing events around us and realize when steps need to be taken to further solidify our theological position. During this Synod meeting the court took the opportunity to discuss and solidify our profession concerning the Bible.



In today's religious world it is not enough to simply say that we believe the Bible to be God's word. Others will agree that the Bible is God's word but yet they will mean something different that what you and I might mean.

This issue of what we mean with our words can be seen when the word Christian is used. In years past it was enough to say that we are Christian. But today we cannot leave it at that. The Mormon Church calls itself Christian. The Jehovah Witness will call himself Christian.

So we have to go further and say that we are Evangelical Christians. Saying that we are Evangelical sets us apart from other religions. See the story What We Evangelicals Believe later in the newsletter.

When speaking of the word of God it is necessary to use words to set the Evangelical Christian community apart from other "christian" communities. As Evangelical Christians, I pray that we understand the importance God's word has in our lives. It is one of the major ways by which we can come to know God and his will for his creation.

For Evangelical Christians this should be a conversation without debate. But all is not well. There are those now in the Evangelical Christian group who would like to argue that the word of God isn't necessarily the word of God at all. There are some that say it is not inspired; that it was written by sinful men to establish a religion and defend their own personal beliefs in the man Jesus. Then others will submit that the Bible *contains* the word of God but not all of the words given are to be considered inspired.

It is important to understand what you believe about the nature of the word of God. I personally believe that many of the ills that affect the church today, not the world but the church, can be traced back to what is believed concerning the nature of the word of God. The non-acceptance of the Bible as the inspired word of God is the root of many distracting issues the church at large faces today.

For example if you believe the Bible *contains* the word of God then you believe there are some words that are from God and some that are not. With this belief someone has to choose which are God's words and which are not. That means that the interpreter holds a degree of power over the given word. God's word has now become subjective, only having meaning if one says it does. And the moment God does not have ultimate power in all areas is the same moment he ceases being God.

This methodology of biblical interpretation can wreak havoc on tough doctrinal issues such as homosexuality, divorce, marriage and others. Simply stated – if you do not like what the Bible says about one of these tough issues then you can say that that portion is not inspired and therefore it does not provide clear direction. I hope you can see the can of worms that can be opened.

No, this is not the way. I believe that the Bible is the very word of God, inerrant and infallible in its original manuscripts and that we do not have the liberty or luxury to decide what is and what is not inspired. It is all inspired! Inspiration takes place on every page from the smallest letter to the grandest statements.

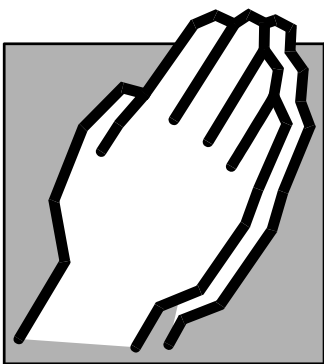
Jesus said, “I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.” In the Greek it reads that not one *jot or tittle* will disappear. A jot and a tittle in the old Hebrew language are the smallest punctuation marks found on a page. So our Lord is saying that even the smallest mark of the pen on a page of the manuscript is vital to his message. Knowing this, can we attempt to hold the word of God subjectively hoping that we can pick out which is inspired and which is not? No, we cannot and we must not.

What do you believe concerning the nature of the word of God? Is it inspired? Is it without error? Is it unable to fail in all cases? Do you hold the word of God as indispensable?

I pray that you do because this word, the very word of God is the nourishment all believers in Jesus Christ must have. If we try to deviate from the smallest portion of God’s word, we will then suffer from malnutrition.

In His Service

Pastor Tim



Please be in prayer for those who will be participating in the Harlan Mission trip. Those attending this year are:

Eddie and Lori Compton

Ken and Jeanette Hauck

Pastor Tim and Judy Watson

Casey Clarke

Kurtis Hauck

Kattie Compton

Kitzi Emery

Gray Emery

Lauren Bailey

Daniel Pugh

Felicia Sports

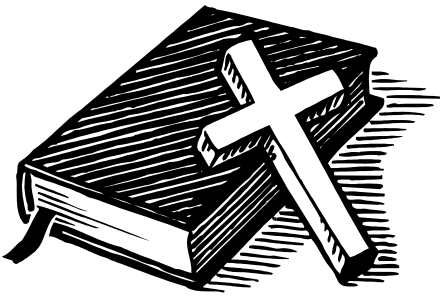
Todd Goodman

Devan Winters

Taryn Setzer

Dylan Deal

Lauren Gryder



What We Evangelicals Believe?

The Trinity - there is one God who exists eternally in three persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit - each equal in power and glory

The Word - we believe that the Bible is the holy, inspired, written word of God, without error in the original manuscripts, and infallible and is the divine authority in all matters of faith and life.

Fallen man - we believe that men and women are sinners from birth and are totally unable to save ourselves or even cooperate with God in salvation.

Salvation - we are saved from our sins by grace alone and that through faith alone in Christ alone - *Sola Gratia, Sola Fide, Sola Christus*. We are saved from our sins through the work of Christ, the Reconciler. We are saved to the praise and glory of God alone.

Jesus Christ - we believe that Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God, who became man through the birth of the Virgin Mary, lived, died, and rose again to atone for the sins of those who trust in him alone for their salvation. Jesus Christ is the only mediator between man and God.

The Holy Spirit - we trust in the Holy Spirit for the daily strength and wisdom we need to walk according to His will and to grow in holiness. We believe him to be the second person of the Trinity.

The Second Coming - we look forward with great anticipation to the glorious day when Jesus Christ will return and make himself known to the entire world and gather his bride to himself for all eternity.

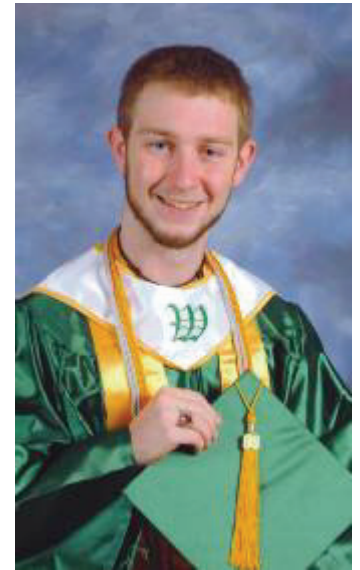




2008 High School Graduates

Casey Clarke

Is a graduate of West Iredell High School. His Accomplishments are: Beta Club President(2008), Honor Graduate, N.C. Scholar, West Iredell's relay team in swimming (10th in state), voted "most respected" in the Senior Superlatives for 2008 class and received the "Coaches Award" in Swimming. He has been employed at the YMCA and West Iredell Recreation as a lifeguard for two years. Casey's hobbies include playing the guitar, playing video games, computers and technology. He will attend N.C. State University this fall.

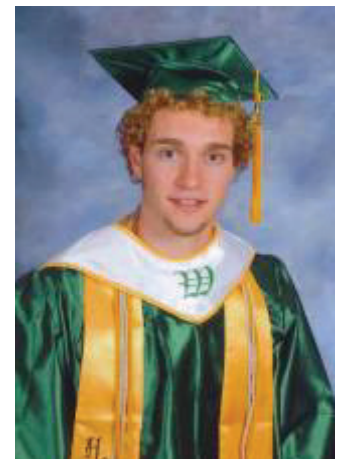


Kurtis Hauck

Is a graduate of West Iredell High School. His accomplishments are: CrossCountry, Track and Field, Beta Club, Scholar Athlete, and A/B honor Roll throughout high School. He also has perfect attendance for all of high school. Recently he was installed into the National Technical Honors Society. He is employed at the River Oaks Golf Club. Kurtis' hobbies include drawing, Frisbee golf, and running. He plans to attend UNC Charlotte this fall, studying architechure.

Daniel Pugh

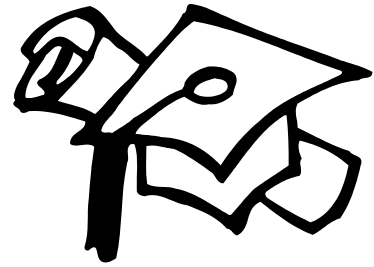
Is a graduate of west Iredell high School. His accomplishments are: Honor Graduate, N.C. Scholar, Scholar Athlete, Outstanding Senior, Beta Club Secretary, Cross country and Swim Team's captain, a member of West Iredell's relay swim team (10th in state), winner of an athletic scholarship from the West Iredell Athletic Boosters and International Thespian Society Member. Daniel's hobbies include Frisbee related sports, acting, drawing, hacky sack, learning new tricks, and spending time with friends and family. His plans are to attend N.C. State University this Fall.



Dalton Winters

Is a graduate of west Iredell High school. His Hobbies include fishing, hunting, lifting weights, and telling jokes. Dalton's future plans is to become a United States Marine, leaving this summer for Parris Island.

2008 College Graduates



Erica Harper

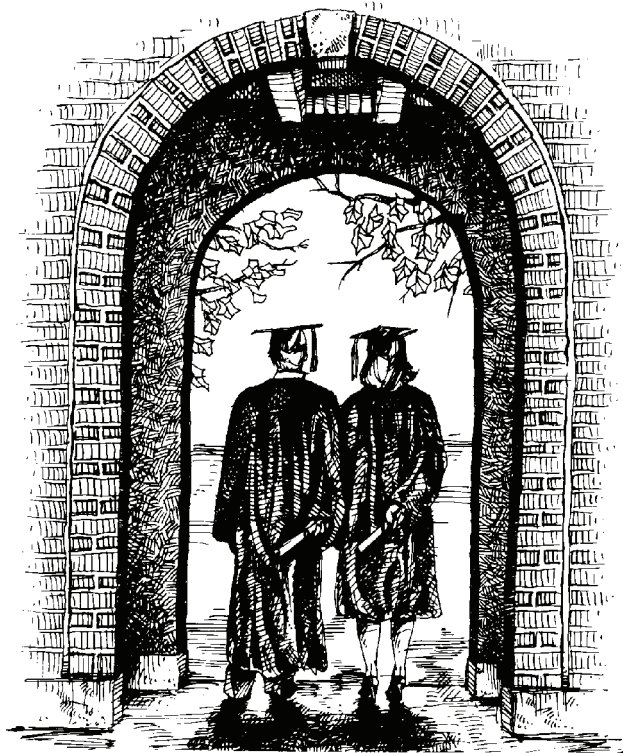
Is a graduate of UNC Charlotte with a Masters Degree of Social Work. Her accomplishments include being a member of Nu Theta Chapter of Phi Alpha Honor Society. Erica's hobbies include singing, going to concerts, tennis and spending as much time as she can with her adorable nephew. Her future plans will be looking for a job working with older adults either in Iredell or Mecklenburg county.

Kelly Pugh

Is a graduate from UNC Charlotte with a degree in elementary education. Her accomplishments include graduated cum laude, and she was on the dean's list and chancellor's list for several semesters. Kelly's hobbies include shopping, reading, and exercising. Kelly is currently working as a 2nd grade teacher at Thorton Elementary (started in January).

*But the wisdom from above is first pure,
then peaceable, gentle, open to reason,
full of mercy and good fruits,
without uncertainty or insincerity.*

James 3:17



News from the Women's Ministries

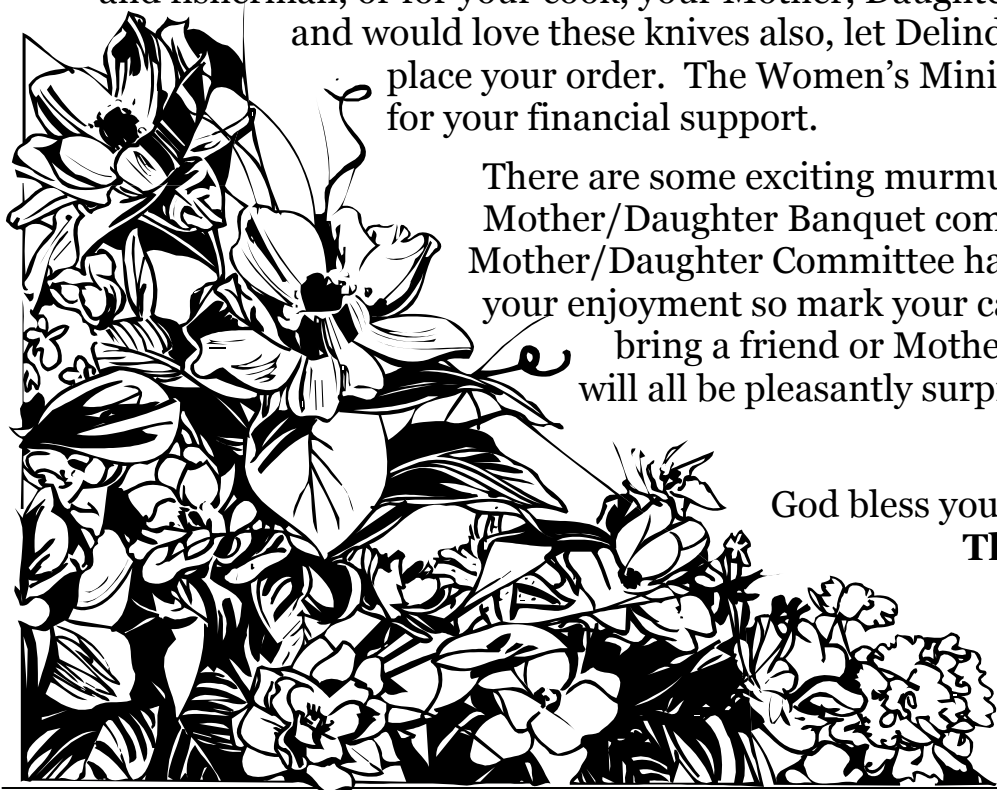
As you all know summer is here and we are all concentrating on family, friends, vacations, and other opportunities we have to spend a little concentrated time on some fun leisure activities. I encourage you to take this opportunity to have some extra solitude and personal time with God. Things sometimes get so hectic throughout the busy year that our spiritual and emotional health needs a little extra filling of living water for rest as well as our physical bodies needs a vacation for refreshment. Pick up a devotional book or Bible study to refresh yourself with or maybe spend some extra time sitting in the garden enjoying the quiet with Jesus. You could even use that extra time to pray or just have a quiet reflection on Christ. What ever you do, I hope it rejuvenates you and brings you joy. Our Father knows all of us as women need it.

Don't forget to go to your circle meetings this summer. Remember your secret sister. And don't forget about our exciting trip to Bonclarken on July 22. If you haven't signed up yet and would still like to go, I'm sure we can always find room for you to join us.

Our first order to RADA Knives was successful. As I listen to what the ladies who order these knives say, I can assure you we all are pleased with this product. If you didn't order all the knives you wanted, the Women of the Church are selling this product as an ongoing service. The knives would be a good addition to anyone's kitchen so if you know of a bride's gift or you need a stocking stuffer for your hunters and fisherman, or for your cook, your Mother, Daughter and yes, your men can cook and would love these knives also, let Delinda Mauney know and she can place your order. The Women's Ministries would like to thank you for your financial support.

There are some exciting murmurings going on about the Mother/Daughter Banquet coming up on August 23. The Mother/Daughter Committee has a lot of fun ideas in mind for your enjoyment so mark your calendars and plan to attend, bring a friend or Mother or Daughter with you, you will all be pleasantly surprised.

God bless you and bring you peace,
The Women's Council





Here And There at New Sterling

Olean Deal attended her 60th High School reunion at Harmony High School.....**Charles and Brian Pope** recently had an accident when their combine caught fire while working in the wheat field. The combine was destroyed and burned 9 acres of wheat. **Charles and Brian** are blessed that neither one was injured.....**David and Kim Brady, Pastor Tim and Judy** attended the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association's Rapid Response Training.....**Lynn Jenkins** spent a few days in the hospital and is at home trying to recuperate.....**Tony, Linda and Erica Harper, Chuck, Cindy and Lance Bowman** spent a vacation at Myrtle Beach.....**Jimmy Winters** had an "episode" and had to go to the Emergency Room. Tests are being followed up.....**Madison Winters** recently had an accident on her deck at home and had a severe ankle sprain.....**Taryn, Brian and Cooper Setzer, Delinda, Bill, Clifton, Brent and Spencer Mauney and a friend Ted Stokes** spent vacation at Fripp Island, SC. They had deer eating out of their hands off their back deck while there.....**Craig, Susan, Daniel and Kelly Pugh** along with **Scott, Jessica, Addie and Paisley Graham** spent vacation time together at Oak Island, NC.....**Lauren Gryder** recently had her wisdom teeth extracted.....**The Gray Family** held their 41st Reunion recently.....**The Youth Shepherds** enjoyed a great pool party at the home of **Nancy and Carroll McNeely**.....**Bill and Elizabeth Linderman** have spent an extended time in Europe for their honeymoon.....**Andy, Leanne, Bailey and Dylan Hartness** vacationed at the beach.....Another Brady gallbladder has bit the dust. **Jessica Brady** had her gallbladder removed last week.....**The Jeff McNeely's** vacationed in Bermuda.....

Give us your vacation destinations for print in next newsletter!!!!

Men's Roundtable Discussion Group

presents

Experiencing God

Monday, August 25 at 7 pm

This study will be held each 4th Monday of the month through May, 2009

Everyone is invited! Men bring your spouses; Ladies bring your husbands. Invite a friend or couple who are not members of New Sterling



All Women of New Sterling~



There are exciting things happening at New Sterling. As the Women's Council began preparing for our annual Mother-Daughter Banquet, we felt as though it no longer agreed with our purpose statement. Our purpose statement is *Women's Ministries encourage spiritual growth through Bible study, creative fellowship and Christian service*. Our desire is to reach *every* woman. We felt as though the Mother-Daughter Banquet isolated many women. There are women that are not mothers, women that have lost their mothers, and women that have lost their daughters. As we continued to pray the burden was lifted and God gave us the answers that we needed for an opportunity to reach all women.

The event will be called *Mothers and Others ~ A celebration of Women*. This event will be held **August 23rd at 6:00 pm** in the Fellowship Hall at New Sterling Church. The focus will not be on mothers and daughters, but the roles of women in God's great kingdom. Our theme for this year's celebration is *I Have Felt the Hand of God*. We have a mother-daughter duo, Carol Featherstone and Michelle McMurry that will speak and entertain us for the evening. Carol is a pageant and interview consultant with over 30 years experience. She has prepared contestants on local, state, and national levels in many pageant systems including Miss America and Miss USA. Carol and her husband, Keith are residents of Mount Holly, North Carolina. Michelle was Miss Gastonia 1988, performed in the North Carolina Performing Arts Troop in 1989, and has been a member of the North Carolina Honors Chorus and The Carolina Glee Club. She sang her first solo in her church and says she believes the reason she went on to accomplish all she has is because of the encouragement she was given by her home church. She resides in Statesville with her husband, Skip and their two children, Caroline and Elias.

Since the focus of the event has turned to women and not women and children, there will be no nursery provided for the evening. Our desire is for every woman to be in the fellowship during this event. Everyone is invited, but mothers you will need to decide if your daughter will be able to remain seated for the evening. We will once again be pampered. Brenda Stewart has graciously agreed to prepare our meal and some of the men of New Sterling will be servers for the evening. The cost of the meal is \$12.00 per plate.

Ladies, we all have an awesome opportunity to invite other women to come and join this celebration. It will be a time of learning and encouragement for all. It will also be an amazing time of fellowship with our sisters in Christ.

You can begin making your reservations now. The cost will be \$12.00 per person. You will need to give your money to Kim Brady or Jane Mayhew. The deadline for collecting money is August 10th. God has given us a great excitement for this event. We are expectant of all that He is going to do. Don't miss out! Come be a part and feel the Hand of God!



God Bless You,
Women's Ministries



New Sterling Classifieds

Tutoring

3rd-8th Grades
Reading, Writing, Math and Science
Licensed Teacher
Over 2 years tutoring experience
4 years teaching experience
Felicia Woodall Sports
704-585-9289
\$25/hour

Redecorating?

Or just want to spruce up or just change some home décor, call **Michelle Hairyes**, sales representative for Signature Home Styles.
Visit her Website at
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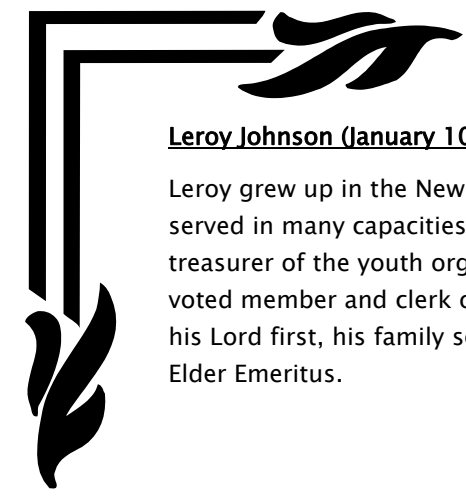
Send us your information or your business card for Free Advertising! We would love to know what you are doing either as your main job or as a 2nd job. If you make crafts, wooden items, etc for sale, send us the information!!



I Will Not Hurry

*I will not hurry through this day! Lord, I will listen by the way,
to humming bees and singing birds, to speaking trees and
friendly words; and for the moments in between, seek glimpses
of the great unseen. I will not hurry through this day! I will
take time to think and pray! I will look into the sky, where
fleecy clouds and swallows fly; and somewhere in the
day...maybe, I will catch whispers, Lord from thee.*

Author Unknown



Leroy Johnson (January 10, 1922 - March 27, 2007)

Leroy grew up in the New Sterling area and at thirteen years of age became a member of New Sterling. He served in many capacities during his lifetime. He was the Adult Sunday School Class secretary and treasurer, treasurer of the youth organization and Sunday night services, and a member of the choir. Leroy was a devoted member and clerk of the session for many years. He lived the kind of life all of us might wish to. He put his Lord first, his family second and was a true friend to all. Three years before his death, he was chose to be Elder Emeritus.

Janie Crawford Baker (March 19, 1923 - May 18, 2007)

Janie Crawford Baker was a life long member of New Sterling. She joined the church as a teenager. After graduation from Sharon High School, she was accepted into the H. F. Long School of Nursing. Shortly after graduation, her only brother - James became a prisoner of war. Janie then joined the Army. After her tour of duty, she stayed with the army working at the Veteran's Hospital in Durham. Leaving the Army as a Lieutenant, she and her husband Howard went to Presbyterian Hospital in Charlotte and stayed there until she retired. Her health was not good at this time. After numerous hospital stays, she went Home last May. Her family greatly misses her, her quick wit and her loving ways.



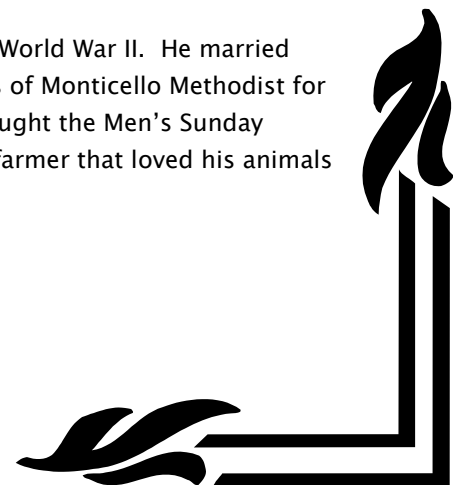
*"Those who believe in me,
even though they die, will live ..."*
John 11:25

Birchie Pope (May 25, 1925 - September 23, 2007)

Birchie became a member of New Sterling ARP Church when she married Edwin Pope in 1932. She was very active in the church, organizing the nursery and helping with it for many years. She was a member of the Golden Christian Circle, serving as president of the WOC. She received the WOC Life Membership in 1995. Words cannot express what a special woman she was to everyone that knew her and how much her church meant to her.

Roy Franklin Beatty (May 14, 1921 - November 1, 2007)

Roy Franklin Beatty was born in Iredell County. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II. He married Dorothy Halyburton on July 6th, 1940 and had two daughters. They were members of Monticello Methodist for almost 50 years. They became members of New Sterling ARP in 1994. Franklin taught the Men's Sunday school class and was an Elder. He was a kind, Christian man and a most efficient farmer that loved his animals and his land. He will truly be missed by all.



Comedy Corner

GRANDMA'S AGE:

LITTLE JOHNNY ASKED HIS GRANDMA! HOW OLD SHE WAS.
GRANDMA ANSWERED, "39 AND HOLDING."
JOHNNY THOUGHT FOR A MOMENT, AND THEN SAID, "AND HOW OLD WOULD YOU BE IF YOU LET GO?"



LIFE AFTER DEATH :

"DO YOU BELIEVE IN LIFE AFTER DEATH?" THE BOSS ASKED ONE OF HIS EMPLOYEES. "YES, SIR," THE NEW EMPLOYEE REPLIED.
"WELL, THEN, THAT MAKES EVERYTHING JUST FINE," THE BOSS WENT ON.
"AFTER YOU LEFT EARLY YESTERDAY TO GO TO YOUR GRANDMOTHER'S FUNERAL, SHE STOPPED IN TO SEE YOU! "

PALM SUNDAY:



IT WAS PALM SUNDAY AND, BECAUSE OF A SORE THROAT, FIVE-YEAR-OLD JOHNNY STAYED HOME FROM CHURCH WITH A SITTER. WHEN THE FAMILY RETURNED HOME, THEY WERE CARRYING SEVERAL PALM BRANCHES. THE BOY ASKED WHAT THEY WERE FOR. "PEOPLE HELD THEM OVER JESUS' HEAD AS HE WALKED BY."
"WOULDN'T YOU KNOW IT," THE BOY FUMED, "THE ONE SUNDAY I DON'T GO, HE SHOWS UP!"

SUPPORT A FAMILY :

THE PROSPECTIVE FATHER-IN-LAW ASKED, "YOUNG MAN, CAN YOU SUPPORT A FAMILY?" THE SURPRISED GROOM-TO-BE REPLIED, "WELL, NO. I WAS JUST PLANNING TO SUPPORT YOUR DAUGHTER. THE REST OF YOU WILL HAVE TO FEND FOR YOURSELVES."



PRAYERS



THE SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER ASKED, "NOW, JOHNNY, TELL ME, DO YOU SAY PRAYERS BEFORE EATING?" "NO SIR," HE REPLIED, "WE DON'T HAVE TO, MY MOM IS A GOOD COOK!"

CLIMB THE WALLS :

"OH, I SURE AM HAPPY TO SEE YOU," THE LITTLE BOY SAID TO HIS GRANDMOTHER ON HIS MOTHER'S SIDE. "NOW MAYBE DADDY WILL DO THE TRICK HE HAS BEEN PROMISING US."
THE GRANDMOTHER WAS CURIOUS. "WHAT TRICK IS THAT?" SHE ASKED.
"I HEARD HIM TELL MOMMY THAT HE WOULD CLIMB THE WALLS IF YOU CAME TO VISIT," THE LITTLE BOY ANSWERED.

YOUTH SUMMER ACTIVITIES



- June 29-July 4** Harlan Mission trip
- July 9** Dan Nichols park (4yr old–
5th grade)
- July 19** Pool Party at Kim and David’s
- July 26** Sliding Rock (Jr. and Sr. High)
- July 27-30** Vacation Bible School
- August 1** Fun Family Night
- August 13** Water day at the church (4yr old –5th grade)
- August 15-16** Campout/ White water rafting trip
(Jr. and Sr. High)

This schedule is tentative, dates may change. Contact your child’s youth leader for more info.

Save the Date!!!!

The New Sterling marriage retreat will be held November 21-22 in Banner Elk, NC. Make plans now. More details to follow later.

Just going to church doesn’t make you a Christian any more than standing in your garage makes you a car.



WHEN A SOLDIER COMES HOME

When a soldier comes home, he finds it hard....

...to listen to his son whine about being bored.

...to keep a straight face when people complain about potholes

...to be tolerant of people who complain about the hassle of getting ready for work

...to be understanding when a co-worker complains about a bad night's sleep

...to be silent when people pray to God for a new car

...to control his panic when his wife tells him he needs to drive slower

...to be compassionate when a businessman expresses a fear of flying

...to keep from laughing when anxious parents say they're afraid to send their kids off to summer camp

...to keep from ridiculing someone who complains about hot weather

...to control his frustration when a colleague gripes about his coffee being cold

...to remain calm when his daughter complains about having to walk the dog

...to be civil to people who complain about their jobs

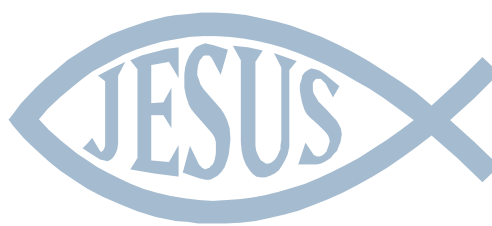
...to just walk away when someone says they only get two weeks of vacation a year

...to be forgiving when someone says how hard it is to have a new baby in the house

The only thing harder than being a Soldier.....is loving one.



To: YOU
Date: TODAY
From: GOD
Subject: YOURSELF
Reference: LIFE



This is God. Today I will be handling All of your problems for you. I do Not need your help. So, have a nice day. Love you.

P.S. And, remember... If life happens to deliver a situation to you that you cannot handle, do Not attempt to resolve it yourself! Kindly put it in the SFGTD (something for God to do) box. I will get to it in MY TIME. All situations resolved, but in My time, not yours. Once the matter is placed into the box, do not hold onto it by worrying about it. Instead, focus on all the wonderful things that are present in your life now.

If you find yourself stuck in traffic, don't despair. There are people in this world for whom driving is an unheard of privilege.

Should you have a bad day at work; think of the man who has been out of work for years.

Should you despair over a relationship gone bad; think of the person who has never known what it's like to love and be loved in return.

Should you grieve the passing of another weekend; think of the woman in dire straits, working twelve hours a day, seven days a week to feed her children.

Should your car break down, leaving you miles away from assistance; think of the paraplegic who would love the opportunity to take that walk.

Should you notice a new gray hair in the mirror; think of the cancer patient in chemo who wishes she had hair to examine.

Should you find yourself at a loss and pondering what is life all about, asking what is my purpose? Be thankful. There are those who didn't live long enough to get the opportunity.

Should you find yourself the victim of other people's bitterness, ignorance, smallness or insecurities; remember, things could be worse. You could be one of them!

Should you decide to send this to a friend; Thank you. You may have touched their life in ways you will never know!

Now, you have a nice day.

God