

March
2007

Expressing Our Wonder

Last month I asked ‘Are we awestruck in our worship of God? Also, I encouraged you to let your mind run and become engrossed with God. While this is certainly the encouragement, it is not an open invitation to think whatever we want about God. How do we, the finite, the created the limited express wonder and amazement of the infinite, the limitless, the Creator? How can we who know so little even come close to expressing ourselves to that One who is the great I Am? The answer to this will help us define and establish our true worship of the Lord God Almighty.

Can we the limited ever express to the appropriate level the sentiment necessary that would reveal a proper awareness of the one thing that is uncontainable, indefinable, and unable to be conceived fully? Wow, it sounds like God is beyond our ability to know, much less express any wonder. Well, to be honest if it had not been for his willingness to be known, we would could not know him.

However, here in God’s graceful act to be known is a glimpse into the answer to our question. How did he reveal himself so that we might know him? He used first creation, then his Word through the prophets of old, then the action of the coming of the Lord Jesus, the Word incarnate, to reveal himself to his creation. How can we use what was revealed by him to express glory or wonder of him? To answer this it will be easier to look at the man Jesus.

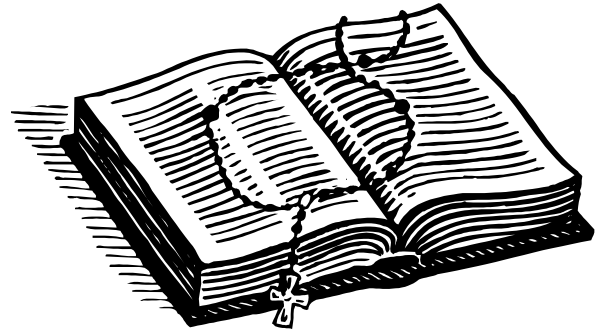
Jesus came in the flesh and in the flesh he used human words and human actions to fulfill the will of God and to bring glory to his Father. He used human words and human actions so that we could understand him and therefore emulate him. He is God he could have done anything he wanted but he chose to do that which you, his created, could do.

WDJD – What did Jesus do? Jesus used words given him by the Father to turn and express his wonder of the Father and to bring glory to that which he loved so much. Jesus said in John 8:28, *I do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me.* We should do the same. Our words should resemble those given by God found in his Holy Word to express our wonder. Our words laced with Scripture should be the bedrock of our worship.

What of our actions? Jesus said that he came to do the will of the Father. Jesus did not do as he pleased – he did only that which the Father had given him to do. Again, in John 14 Jesus remarked, *I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me*

will do what I have been doing. Our actions should be those actions we find in the pages of Scripture.

But sometimes the Bible isn’t as clear as we like. The Westminster Confession provides guidance here. It says in chapter one, part six that the ‘whole counsel of God is either expressly stated in Scripture or by good and necessary inference may



be deduced from Scripture.’ This means that areas that God intends to be clear are clear and the areas that are not so clearly defined we are to use our minds under the guidance of Scripture to wisely do as we should.

We can use our imaginations to wonder and think about God but we must understand who we are. We are redeemed yet there are the residuals of our sinful nature still present in our lives and in our thinking. Our imaginations, therefore, are tainted with the residual effects of our sinful nature. Therefore, our thoughts, our imaginations – all of our thinking must always be guided and validated by Scripture. A Christian should not have a thought and say that God directed me to do such and such without first validating that thought and action against Scripture. The believer can do many things to show God a desire to worship and honor him but those actions must always be governed by the Holy Scriptures.

Today, as throughout history, we try to do the things and say the words that we think God wants to see and hear. We design our personal devotion time and our corporate worship with the objective of doing those things we think would please God. That does not sound too wrong, does it? We want to please God.

Please note in the previous sentences I said ‘we think’ – ‘we think God wants’, ‘we design’, ‘we think would please God.’ Remember at the outset I asked, who are we the limited to think that we know what God the unlimited wants? We can only think, worship and show God our worship and love as he first directs us through his Holy Word. Left to our own thinking we will always go astray.

There are many passages throughout the Old and New Testaments that show God’s people

worshipping him with their actions and their words. In Revelation 4 & 5, we see one of the most beautiful pictures of corporate worship that happened in the past, is presently taking place and one day we will join. I encourage you to read these words slowly and try to experience the sense of wonder and amazement those surrounding the throne reveal as they worship the Lord God Almighty.

Holy, Holy, Holy

Is the Lord God Almighty

Who was, who is and is to come.

Note that the words used here are very similar to words we read in Isaiah 6, Exodus 3, and John 1. While

you may not find them exactly in this form, the sentiment used by the writers of these earlier books are seen and heard in the words of those surrounding the throne.

I pray we live in amazement as these do and that we express our wonder in a way that pleases God.

In His Service,

Pastor Tim

Bible History Taught in Our Schools

The course taught in area high schools is a survey of the Old Testament and New Testaments. The focus is a general historical overview of the Bible. The teacher's salary is funded by donations from area churches, organizations, and individuals. The Iredell-Statesville Schools Bible Association sponsors this program. For more info contact: Iredell-Statesville Schools Bible Association, P.O. Box 583, Statesville, NC, 28687.



Instead of wearing the galoshes of gloom we need to wrap ourselves in the "garment of praise".

—Barbara Johnson, author



*Give them beauty for ashes, The old of joy
for mourning, The garment of praise for the spirit of
heaviness.*

Isaiah 61:3 NKJV



Coming Events



- March 2-3 Senior High Retreat
- March 3 10:00 Knit Wits meet at church to go on a road trip to the Dove House
- March 4 11:00 Special Offering taken for the Bilouxi Mission Trip
- March 4 5:00 CE Committee
- March 4 6:00 Sunday Night Fellowship begins
- March 4 7:30 Session Meeting
- March 5 9:30 Golden Christian Circle
- March 6 7:00 Treasure Keepers @ Judy Watson's
- March 11 Daylight Savings Time Begins
- March 11 11:00 Commission Service for the Missions Team
- March 11-17 Bilouxi Mission Trip
- March 12 10:00 Sterling Silvers Luncheon
- March 13 Meeting of First Presbytery
- March 16-18 Junior High Retreat
- March 18 Newsletter Items Due
- March 19 7:00 Knit Wits at Missy Withers
- March 20 7:00 Mary & Martha Sunset
- March 21 10:00 Mary & Martha Sunrise
- March 23-25 Women's Beach Retreat
- March 27 Adult Spring Fling at New Sterling
- March 31 Youth Shepherd BBQ & Auction



God didn't promise days without pain, laughter without sorrow, nor sun without rain, but He did promise strength for the day, comfort for the tears and light for the way.

'Things, they are a changing'

This line from an old Bob Dylan song would fit our Youth Shepherds these days. And, from my vantage point I see these changes all being very positive. Aarene Reese, Kim Brady, David Brady, and Judy Watson have determined that it is time to step down as leaders of our Jr and Sr High School group. Kim has asked also to resign as Youth Shepherd's Activities Coordinator. All of these have been involved in youth activities for many years and we owe a great deal of thanks to them and a 'praise the Lord' for their tireless, selfless work. To all of you – Thank You!



While this will certainly affect the entire Jr/Sr High Youth group, the future is very bright for our teens. Ken Hauck, who has been with the group and really enjoys the relationship he has gained with the teens, will remain giving us leadership and consistency through the changes. I have asked, and the Session has approved, Scott Graham to take over the leadership of the Jr/Sr High group. Jessica, his wife, will certainly join Scott, bringing her own level of excitement and energy. Scott and Jessica have desired to be more involved at this level and now is the time. Also Brian and Taryn Setzer will bring their talents to this group forming a pretty impressive Jr/Sr High Youth Group Leadership Team. I really am excited about the gifts each of these brings to our youth. Pray for each of them as they take on this very important responsibility.

What of the younger ones that meet on Wednesday evenings? For now, they will continue to meet on Wednesdays. We have asked Cindy McNeely to become the Youth Shepherd's Activities Coordinator replacing Kim in that position. But do not be too surprised to hear of some activity and movement with this very important age group.

Another change you will notice beginning Sunday March 4 is that the Jr/Sr High Youth group will begin meeting on Sundays and this will become their regular weekly meeting time all year. This is actually a very logical move. As you know during the spring and fall, we all meet on Sunday evenings for Family Nights. In the past during this time, the teens have met with Scott and Tra Watson and so this becomes a merger of the two programs. Tra will remain and be a part of the advisor/teacher group for the teens. Also, on Sunday evenings our Christian Contemporary Choir (C3) meets which will allow those who desire to be a part this group.

As you can imagine there are some details to be worked out but I know that when God is involved and we follow his lead, all will work and he will receive the praise.

I want to mention the most important thing I saw during this movement. Aarene, Kim, and Judy have felt God move them toward Women's Ministry. For David, besides his work as Clerk of Session, he has become more involved in Missions and wants to do more with the men's discipleship and Bible study. What was so rewarding was to watch each of these pray and ponder when they felt the Holy Spirit begin pricking their hearts. They did not say, 'Oh I must stay here, I cannot change' and let that guide their decision. All of us, I pray, mature in our walks with the Lord and sometimes that means moving to a new ministry. These folks have shown us that when we pray and ask our Lord for guidance during the difficult decision, he answers.

The other thing that is so fascinating is two fold: First, when each of these told their peers they were stepping down – the others accepted it because they knew it was God moving them and who are we to argue with what God is doing. To a person the response was – 'if God is moving you then he will send someone to replace you and it will be better than before.' It takes a very mature person to say or to hear a comment like that. The second thing was that in fact there was someone to step in and take the reins. And, this was not just anyone but several people who are very, very qualified to lead these groups. It is a blessing from God to have the resources we have within New Sterling to lead our Youth Ministries. God always provides. Many pastor friends are searching endlessly for someone to lead their youth. We have not one or two, four or five but many times 8-10 adults involved with our youth. Praise the Lord for his rich blessings!

Yes, there are many details to be worked out as these changes take place. Please pray for all of us as we lead our teens in the way of the Lord.



The Donnellys

Tim and Melissa met during their high school years in Carroll county, Maryland, but did not start dating until after graduation. They were married at Kirkridge ARP church in Manchester, Maryland in 1994.

Tim works at Haldex Hydraulics in Statesville as a manufacturing engineer II

Melissa works from home as a medical transcriptionist and also home schools three children. Tim and Melissa enjoy riding motorcycles and camping.



Tim and Melissa Donnelly joined New Sterling on February 11, 2007, although they attended for over a year. Melissa is currently playing piano for the Children's Choir and is serving on the Christian Ed committee. She is also active in the Women of the Church. Tim is hoping to serve on a committee this year. Both Tim and Melissa hope to find their "ministry niches" and become more involved at New Sterling.

Their oldest daughter Lorin, is eight years old. She is being educated at home and is active in several activities, including swimming, 4-H, and dance. Lorin also loves to sing and ride on the back of her mom's motorcycle. Lorin and her brother Samuel both sing in the New Sterling children's choir and also sing in the choir with their home school group and enjoy singing for nursing home residents and various other groups to whom they travel in the community. Samuel is six years old and is also being taught at home. He is involved in Cub scouts as well as several activities with the Iredell County Home Educators. Samuel loves swimming and riding his bicycle. Karen is three years old and also takes dance at Miss Betty's School of Dance in Statesville. All three children are involved in gymnastics and too many other activities to name!

The Donnelly family is planning a camping trip to Orlando, Florida in March and are looking forward to visiting Disney World and Sea World and catching up with some friends and relatives in the area.

The family looks forward to getting to know their new church family better in the coming months and years. They are so thankful that God has led them to New Sterling.



HERE AND THERE AT NEW STERLING

Daniel Pugh and **Casey Clarke** participated in the Western Regional Swimming Competition in Huntersville with part of their West Iredell High School swim team.....**Daniel Pugh** also represented the Beta Club on West Iredell High School's recent Snow Court....**Juanita Massey** was caught chasing turkeys while delivering prayer shawls for the Knit

Wits....The boys 3rd and 4th grade basketball team for Sharon School went undefeated in the regular season and took the championship spot in the tournament. **Garrett Deal** and **Cody Hairyes** play for this team..... The girls 3rd and 4th grade basketball team for Sharon School only had 1 loss in the regular season and won 2nd place in the tournament. **Madison Winters** played for the girls team.... Ask **Garrett Deal** how he got the nickname "SMILEY".....**Jessica Ciccarelli** and **Anthony Brady** are now engaged. No date is set at this time....**Robert Fulbright** recently had surgery on his foot. We are glad to hear it is healing nicely.....**Gary Reavis** had surgery on his neck for a ruptured disc. He came to church recently slightly "over the edge" on medication.....**CONGRATULATIONS** to **Amber and Adrian Jarrett**. They expect a new little addition to the family sometime late August.....**Kattie Compton** recently participated in the Mars Hill College Choral Festival held on February 1 & 2. **Kattie** received an award for having scored a perfect score for her audition for acceptance to attend this Choral Festival.....**Peggy Gray** attended the Erskine College board meeting on February 22-23 in Due West, SC.....**Eddie, Lori, Kattie, Cody, Justin** and **Hannah** attended a Valentine's Day dinner theater which was presented by the CVCC show choir. **Kattie** plans to audition for the CVCC show choir this coming April.....New members joining the New Sterling family are **Randall and Kim Honeycutt, Carson, Buck and Reagan, Tim and Melissa Donnelly, Loren, Samuel and Karen**.....Ask **Jessica Ciccarelli** about her first experience with oysters.....Notice **Dylan Deal's** beautiful smile. She finally got her grill off!.....**Todd McCulloch, Craig Pugh, Frank Emery** and **Kent Clark** recently spent the weekend golfing at Santee Cooper, SC...**Jacob McNeely** played basketball on the Statesville Montisouri School team. **Jeff** was his coach.....



Don't worry about tomorrow, GOD is already there.

Chicken BBQ & Auction

March 31. 2007

BBQ 4-6pm

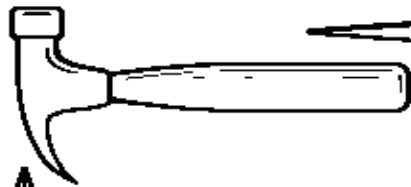
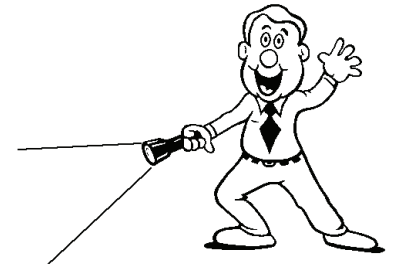
Adult: \$6.50 per plate

Children: \$3.25 per plate



Auction 6:30 pm

All donated items need to be at the church
by 6pm March 30th. Thanks!



Bilouxi Mission Team

There are 12 going on the Bilouxi Mission trip. They are:

Jeff McNeely

Lynn Jenkins

Tommy Morton

Paul Milsaps

Brian Setzer

Jeremy Brady

David Brady

Kim Brady

Tim Watson

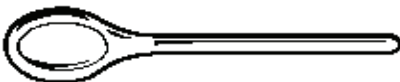
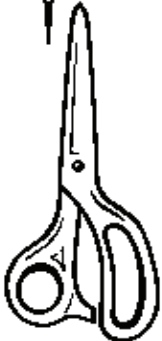
Judy Watson

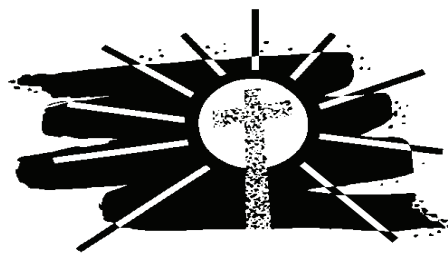
Eddie Compton

Lori Compton



The will leave New Sterling on Sunday March 11 and return on Saturday March 17. We will have a Commission Service on March 11 during the 11:00 Worship hour.



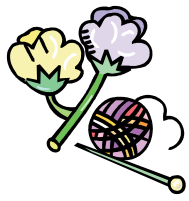


You say: “It’s Impossible”	God says: All things are possible.	Luke 18:27
You say: “I’m too tired”	God says: I will give you rest	Matthew 11:28-30
You say: “Nobody really loves me”	God says: I love you	John 3:16 & John 3:34
You say: “I can’t go on”	God says: My grace is sufficient	II Corinthians 12:9 and Psalm 91:15
You say: “I can’t figure things out”	God says: I will direct your steps	Proverbs 3:5-6
You say: “I can’t do it”	God says: You can do all things	Phillippians 4:13
You say: “I’m not able”	God says: I am able	II Corinthians 9:8
You say: “It’s not worth it”	God says: It will be worth it	Romans 8:28
You say: “I can’t forgive myself”	God says: I Forgive you	1 John 1:9 and Romans 8:1
You say: “I can’t manage”	God says: I will supply your needs	Phillippians 4:19
You say: “I’m afraid”	God says: I have not give you a spirit of fear	II Timothy 1:7
You say: “I’m always worried and frustrated	God says: Cast all your cares on ME	I Peter 5:7
You say: “I’m not smart enough	God says: I will give you wisdom	I Corinthians 1:30
You say: “I feel all alone	God says: I will never leave you or forsake you	Hebrews 13:5

*With
Sympathy*

*Our sympathy is expressed to
Vivian Gray in the recent
passing of her mother.*





Knit Wit News

The Knit Wits recently delivered prayer shawls and lap blankets to:



Faye Walker



Elena Johnson



Margaret Morrison

Mrs. Morrison had recently suffered a very bad fall and had many bruises.



Sometimes we have to remind Juanita that we are there to deliver Prayer Shawls and not there to catch turkeys.

She struck up quite a conversation with him and his lady turkeys!

These are the pets of Bill and Margaret Morrison.



Since the first meeting of the Knit Wits in May of 2006, we have dedicated and delivered 21 prayer shawls and lap blankets to New Sterling church members.

We have dedicated 12 to non-church members which also have been delivered by those who made them especially for these friends and family.

We at present have 4 shawls and 1 lap blanket in our closet.

We have had donations of yarn, money, cards to give with the shawls/blankets, labels to sew into the shawls/blankets, gift bags and lots of outside prayers. If anyone would like to make donations or monetary contributions for our new upcoming projects for the new year, please see any member of the Knit Wit group.

We currently have a roster of 24 Knit Wits and are always looking for more to come and join in the fun and fellowship.

Comedy Corner

Subject: : Little white Lie

Have you ever told a white lie? You are going to enjoy this - especially all of the ladies who bake for church events.

Alice Grayson was to bake a cake for the Baptist Church ladies' group bake sale in Tuscaloosa, but she forgot to do it until the last minute. She remembered it the morning of the bake sale and after rummaging through cabinets she found a dusty old Angel food cake mix in the back of her kitchen cabinet and quickly made it while drying her hair and dressing and helping her son Bryan pack up for Scout camp. But when Alice took the cake from the oven the center had dropped flat and the cake was horribly disfigured.

She said, "Oh dear, there's no time to bake another cake." This cake was so important to Alice because she did so want to fit in at her new church, and in her new community of new friends. So, being inventive and not wanting anyone to think she was not the perfect woman able to handle all things at all times or that, God forbid, she not participate in her church's bazaar, she looked around the house for something to build up the center of the cake. Alice found it in the bathroom -- a roll of toilet paper. She plunked it in and then covered it with icing. Not only did the finished product look beautiful, it looked perfect!

Before she left the house to drop the cake by the church and head for work, Alice woke her daughter Amanda and gave her some money and specific instructions to be at the bake sale the minute it opened at 9:30, and to buy that cake and bring it home.

When the daughter arrived at the sale, she found that the attractive perfect cake had already been sold. Amanda grabbed her cell phone and called her Mom. Alice was horrified... she was beside herself. Everyone would know .what would they think? Oh, my God she wailed! She would be ostracized, talked about, ridiculed. She would have to move or kill herself! All night Alice lay awake in bed thinking about people pointing their fingers at her and talking about her behind her back.

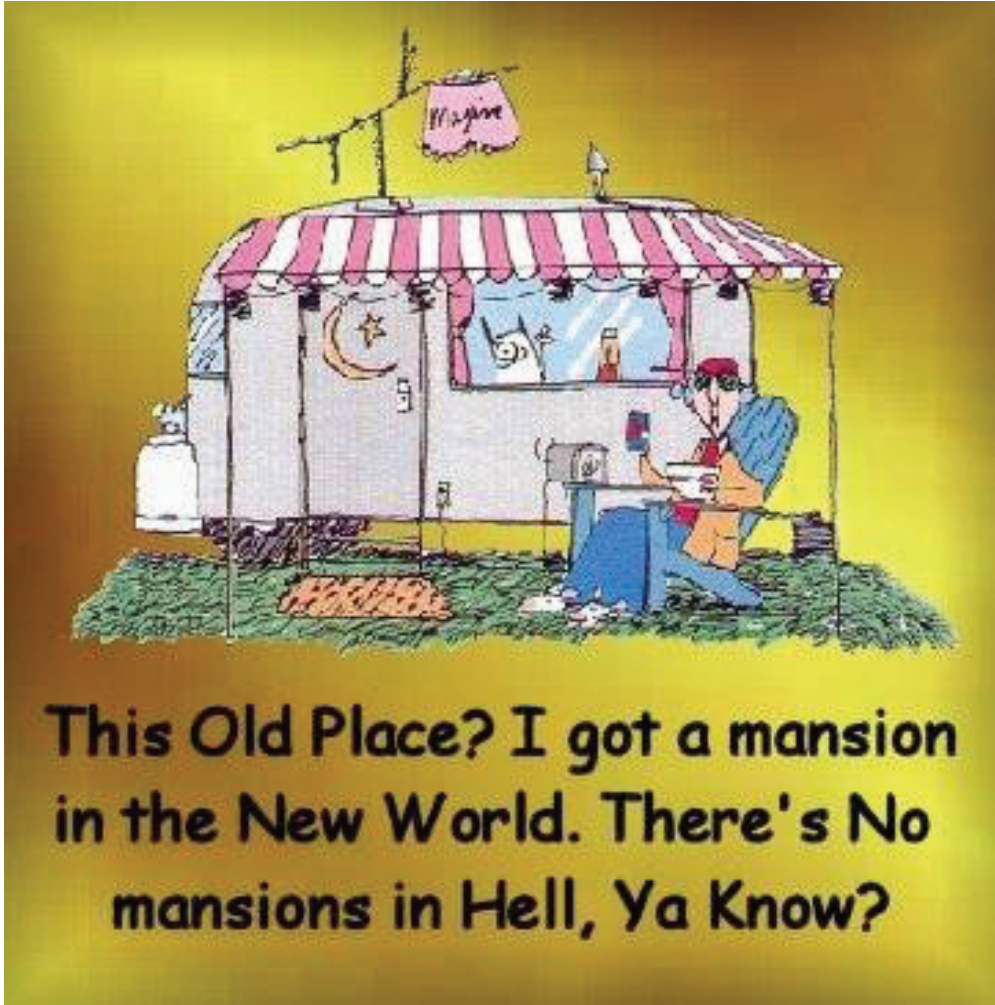
The next day, Alice promised herself that she would try not to think about the cake and she would attend a fancy luncheon/bridal shower at the home of a friend of a friend and try to have a good time. Alice did not really want to attend because the hostess was a snob who more than once had looked down her nose at the fact that Alice was a single parent and not from the founding families of Tuscaloosa but having already RSVP she could not think of a believable excuse to stay home.

The meal was elegant, the company was definitely upper crust old South....and to Alice's horror THE CAKE in question was presented for dessert. Alice felt the blood drain from her body when she saw the cake, she started to get out of her chair to rush into the kitchen to tell her hostess all about it, but before she could get to her feet, the Mayor's wife said, "What a beautiful cake!" Alice who was still stunned and trying to formulate what words she would use to explain the situation, sat back in her chair when she heard the hostess (who was a prominent church member) say, "Thank you, I baked it myself."

Alice smiled and thought to herself "God does work in mysterious ways."



GOTTA LOVE MAXINE!!!!



New Sterling Church is listed as a partner with Sharon Elementary School. In being a partner with the school, we are given the privilege of helping the school out in many ways. At this time we know they are very low on the number of volunteers they have there. You can be a parent, a grandparent, aunt, uncle, sister or brother, any age to go over to the school and let the children read to you, math tutoring, work in Kindergarten centers, help with parties they may be having, etc. Some teachers do not have assistants, so they could always use help. If we can just give an hour a week or an hour a day, they appreciate any time we can give. We can even just go to lunch with one of the classes as a visiting “parent or grandparent”. The children love to have older people come and do things with them.

They have a small clothes closet for those who have “accidents”, they need school supplies, Kleenex, hand soap, chap stick just to mention a few ongoing things they need.

We will be gathering more information, but for now if you have any questions or you have a group that may want to do

Homebound and Assisted Living

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

Pauline Pope
Autumn Care
2001 Vanhaven Drive
Statesville, NC 28625

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

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

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

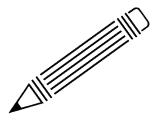
Edith Reese
PO Box 346
Buford, GA 30515



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



March Birthdays



1 Dot Dagenhart

1 DJ Nugent

2 Rachel Gray

4 Laura Bailey

4 Jim Hartness

4 Joe Jenkins

4 Wesley Jenkins

4 Pat Sherrill

5 Jessica Burruel

5 Tim Watson

6 Darrell Elliott

6 Erin Waugh

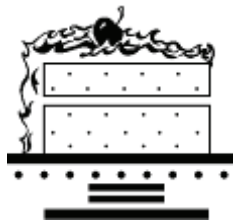
7 Rick Bustle

9 Leah Gryder

9 Michelle Hansley

11 Brian Caldwell

11 Floyd Levan



11 Taryn Setzer

13 Amy Gray

13 Brianna Henderson

14 Todd Winters

15 Gary Goodman

15 Matthew Moose

16 Tim Hager

16 Dylan Hartness

16 Charles Pope

20 Nolan Winters

22 Wendy Pope

23 Sue Fulbright

23 Alan Reavis

23 Gary Reavis

23 Steve Yount

25 Betty Levan

25 Birchie Pope

25 Wayne Waugh

26 Ruth Foy

27 Robert Boggs

27 Cindy Hardin

28 Josh Burruel

28 Hunter Hansley

28 Julia Massey

28 Johnny Shoemaker

29 Libby Brooks

31 Kristal Harding

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

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