



Annual Offering video released!

The video featuring Nathan and Tyler can be viewed at vimeo.com/bchfamily/chosen.

Charity & Children

And now abides faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity. Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina



@bchfamily

September 2020

Issue 9

Volume 133

This is going to be great

By Jim Edminson, Editor

Twenty-two-year-old, and recent college graduate, Megan Bogey has gone from a page in *Charity & Children* to an office at Kennedy Home. Bogey was only eight years old when she and members from her home church, Albertson Missionary Baptist Church, attended a "Friends of Children" event on the Kinston campus.

"It was a sunny, beautiful day," she recalls. "As we worked planting flowers, I thought in my small way I was helping children."

The social work major

was searching for her first job when her grandmother, Billie Faye "Mema" Howard, reminded her of Kennedy Home.

"Mema took the clipping of the "Friends of Children" C&C article out of a drawer...

(Continued on page 3.)



Megan Bogey serves as a case manager at Kennedy Home for BCH's Family Foster Care program.

[MY THOUGHTS]

In solitude with God, the noise fades

By **Michael C. Blackwell**, President/CEO

I Googled “worry” and came up with more than a billion results. It seems, we have a lot to worry about and anxiety seems to be building. COVID-19, racial strife, job loss, deciding whether to send children back to school during a pandemic, and even murder hornets have us worrying constantly. If you haven’t heard of that last thing, well my friend, the hornets are just the icing on the cake that is 2020 so far.

Worry and anxiety are products of what is happening and the dangerous consequences are poor health, dissatisfaction, unhappiness, and lack of productivity. We are literally worrying ourselves to death.

I wish I could say I am immune. I should be after surviving numerous crises in my life and realizing that few were as bad as I had feared. I will never forget, as a young father of two children, reaching into my pocket and coming up with only two cents. On that day, Kathy and I didn’t have a dime in the bank nor any idea of how we could make it until payday. Later in the mail that day, I received an unexpected check for a class I taught parttime at the local high school. It was enough to get us to my next paycheck.

Ultimately, I had nothing to worry about.

But occasionally, I lapse into fretting over something. Most recently, concerns about the virus and the lasting impact it will have on our country, society, and Baptist Children’s Homes.

Questions drift through my mind. Will we come out of this by the end of the year, or will it linger into 2021? Or longer? Will

the disease affect me and my family? Will we be able to cope? If the economy fails, how will people make a living?

You may have noticed a common thread in the above questions—there is little I can do about any of them besides worry. A friend of mine from my radio days in Charlotte would always ask, “A hundred years from now, what the heck difference will it make?”

I often remind myself, as long as we are doing what we know is right in our heart, God will do His part and take care of the rest.

Just because I choose a positive, optimistic outlook does not mean I do not recognize that life is hard and what people are grappling with is serious—these are hard days. But, I’m convinced that overcoming struggles gives us wisdom, knowledge, and strength. As we battle, it is best to acknowledge that most of the potential trouble we worry over will never come to pass.

One real antidote for worry is solitude. Solitude is the practiced, disciplined habit of withdrawing to pray, meditate on the good in our lives, and develop an appreciation for God’s work in this world. A person who cultivates solitude can be content in a football stadium filled with 10,000 screaming fans. Someone who insists on cramming his life with noise and empty activities can sit in the same stadium, and feel dreadfully alone.

During this pandemic, we are learning the importance of socially distancing, take a moment in this time of forced solitude to reflect on what we have been given and what we have to give others.

Solitude is a lost art. Many people feel so lonely that they do not want to consciously remove themselves from everyone. And during this time, there is so much noise, it’s hard to find quiet in one’s life.

But experiencing solitude in a positive way can bring new personal insights. Michelangelo never would have painted the Sistine Chapel ceiling if he constantly abandoned the task to hangout with his buds. Because of his deafness, Thomas Edison mastered the light bulb working alone in

his lab—creating hundreds of other inventions as well. Jesus formulated His famous Sermon on the Mount away from others during prayer and solitude.

If you use alone time to pursue meaningful disciplines, solitude can be like water to a budding flower. I first heard about solitude from Quaker writer Elton Trueblood who described almost going crazy when he first sat quietly for an hour. But in the last two minutes of that hour, God spoke to him softly and gave him a resolve and a calm that lasted the rest of his life.

Look around and you can see God at work. In the stillness, if you wait patiently, you will hear Him. Turn off the cell phone. Stop watching the news for a week. Log off Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter and go meet Him. It will be all you need during these noisy, challenging times—“Be still and know that I am God.”

Mission: sharing hope . . . changing lives

Vision: To provide the highest quality

of Christian services to children, adults

and families in a caring culture of

measurable excellence

Charity & Children – Baptist Children’s Homes of North Carolina, Inc., 204 Idol St., PO Box 338, Thomasville, NC 27361-0338. Michael C. Blackwell, publisher; Jim Edminson, editor (wjedminson@bchfamily.org); Blake Ragsdale, managing editor (jbragsdale@bchfamily.org); Marcia Housand, account clerk. **Charity & Children** (ISSN 0009-1723-09 USPS 100-460) is published 11 times a year for friends and supporters of Baptist Children’s Homes. It is printed at Triangle Web Printing, Durham, NC and mailed by Excalibur, Winston-Salem, NC. **Circulation:** 62,000 seven times a year, 30,000 four times a year. Periodicals postage paid at Thomasville, NC, and at additional mailing offices. **For free subscription or to be removed from the mailing list or make address correction or change,** use the above address and write to **Attn: Circulation Manager**, send an email to address@bchfamily.org or call at 336-474-1209. **Subscribe online** at bchfamily.org/charityandchildren. **POSTMASTER:** Send change of address to **Charity & Children**, PO Box 338, Thomasville, NC 27361-0338.

NCBAM's Servant Care connects with retired ministers

By Carol Layton, Director of Communications and Administration - NCBAM

In late March when many churches stopped meeting and senior adults were advised to self-isolate, regional directors at North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry (NCBAM) immediately increased efforts to communicate with all Servant Care participants—making 200 contacts in the first month. Servant Care provides priority access to NCBAM's services for pastoral ministers, music ministers, and missionaries 65+, including their spouses or surviving spouses. The outreach also offers fellowship and educational opportunities for participants through other programs and regional events.

"It's such a blessing to connect with Servant Care participants," said NCBAM's Charity Johnson. "I feel God has equipped me with skills to help take care of His aging pastors and ministers—they've always put others first and now it's time for us to put them first."

Rev. H* is a Servant Care participant whom Johnson calls regularly in the southeast region of the state. After serving as a Baptist pastor for more than 50 years, he was widowed in 2014. Now at age 87, failing eyesight makes cooking for himself difficult. Johnson connected him with a ministry at her church and now three home-cooked meals are delivered each week to his home.

Another of Johnson's Servant Care participants is Rev. M*—a retired pastor and director of missions. "In addition to calling, I also send notes. Recently, Rev. M called to say the Bible verse I included blessed him. He was beginning chemo treatments and it was the perfect word at the right time. That blessed me. But it wasn't me. God is using us to encourage His servants."

Johnson says social isolation imposed by the

COVID-19 pandemic has greatly heightened the loneliness many are experiencing. "With not being able to attend church or even see family, their only human contact each week might be a quick trip to the grocery store at 6:00 a.m. Many

are in need of prayer right now and of someone just to talk to."

Samantha Allred, north central regional director, sees a common thread among the participants with who she connects. "I feel it is ten times harder for pastors and ministers to talk about their needs. They're used to serving others—it takes me urging them to discover what their needs might be."

"Rev. B* was very grateful for my call but told me right away, 'Don't bother with me; call someone who needs it more.' Now, he is most likely to initiate a call—he is graciously mentoring me and I appreciate the advice he's offered."

Allred also befriended Mrs. F*, an 86-year-old widow. "She is newly isolated because of the pandemic and takes seriously the recommendations to self-isolate. Her son delivers groceries and, apart from doctor visits, she doesn't leave home. We've bonded over sewing and quilting. Every time our conversations conclude, she thanks me and says, 'Please keep calling.'"

Allred is grateful for the special relationships she has with Servant Care participants. "During times like this, small things can have the biggest impact. It amazes me the difference a simple phone call can make."

Angie Gregg, NCBAM's west regional director, has been especially touched by widows she has connected with during the pandemic. "Mrs. C* is in her 90s and although still active, she's very appreciative of the calls and loves to talk

about her late husband's pastorate and their lives in ministry. When I mentioned one of his accomplishments, she was so pleased and said, 'Oh, you know about that?'"

Gregg had an especially poignant conversation with

another widow, 91-year old Mrs. K*. "When I asked about her current church, she replied that she still attended the one where she had grown up and where her husband had served. She said that since they had stopped holding services due to the pandemic, she had not heard from anyone."

More than 700 individuals are included in Servant Care's outreach—with 64 retired ministers added in June. Servant Care participants receive regular phone calls and birthday cards. Frail participants receive assessments by an NCBAM regional director. (In-home assessments are currently handled remotely.) NCBAM regional directors work with Baptist Associations to confirm and share updated contact information for retired ministers. Participation is not based on financial need.

NCBAM's director, Dr. Sandy Gregory, sees Servant Care as one of NCBAM's most important ministries. "Many pastors join a new church when they retire and so the strong connections to the people who would be most eager to help them are lost. NCBAM is there to fill the gap by giving Servant Care participants the love, care, and honor they so richly deserve."

* Used to insure participants' privacy.



Bogey joins Kennedy Home after volunteering as child

(Continued from page 1.) and handed it to me," she says. "There I was in the picture. I remember how wonderful it was that day—the connection in my mind and heart was immediate."

Bogey says she is an over-thinker, but when deciding to come to Kennedy Home (KH), she didn't think too long about it. "I knew I wanted to come. My mom and Mema were thrilled."

This past June 29, Bogey made the 45-minute commute from Greenville to begin her new job as a KH case manager for Baptist Children's Homes' (BCH) Family Foster Care program. Her "virtual"—due to COVID-19—Eastern Carolina University graduation had only been

days before. In her backseat, she packed yellow drapes for windows and decorative sunflower wall art destined for her office door.

"I always have wanted to help others," she affirms. "To work helping others and to serve a Christian ministry, it is ideal."

The Family Foster Care ministry is growing across the state. The program partners with churches recruiting families from congregations. BCH provides expert training and offers close support throughout the process. Bogey is working with six families and has placed five children.

Bogey admits she was nervous at first, but she says the KH team made it easy to settle into her

position. She was excited about taking what she had learned in college and applying it to her work with foster families.

"I settled in quickly," she says. "Everyone here is like family. I knew it from the beginning, this is going to be great."

Bogey says her family, group of friends from college, and her church are important in her life. "I've added BCH to that tight circle. Kennedy Home has become an integral part of my life."

Bogey says she is "sold" on BCH. "I would encourage anyone to come and find their place of service at BCH," she asserts. "Come and be a part of a great family."

Oh to tell you “a child’s story” is to tell of Him

By **Brenda B. Gray**, Executive Vice President, Development & Communications

The song “My Story” is a melody of hope—hope that won’t let go. The writer tells of victory over the enemy. It is a story of freedom where life overcomes the grave. *“Of the grace that is greater than all my sin. Of when justice was served and where mercy wins. Of the kindness of Jesus that draws me in.”*

“Oh to tell you my story is to tell of Him.”
I recently received these stories:
“I am a groupwork supervisor at Cameron Boys Camp. On an afternoon trail walk, one of the boys asked if he could talk to me while we walked—he said that I might be disappointed with what he had to say. I assured him that nothing he told me would make me think less of him.

“He asked if I remembered when he seemed particularly interested in reading the Bible. I said I did. He confessed to me that at the time, he had been an atheist and was trying to cover it up. I knew that he had recently purchased a study Bible from our trading post, so I asked him where he stood on the subject now. He said emphatically that he was “a theist.”

I laughed, “Well, you’re in the right ballpark, but you need to meet Jesus now.”

“Oh, I’m a Christian,” Then he asked, “Chief, if someone becomes a Christian, but they used to be an atheist, can they still go to heaven?”

At this point, I became emotional. Tears welled in the corner of my eyes as my voice lowered, “Absolutely!”

I explained the sufficiency of Christ’s sacrifice and we talked about the grace of God. Some of the other boys chimed in, and agreed. I finished by saying, “So, if you have confessed your sins and trusted that Jesus’ sacrifice is enough to pay for them—then welcome to the family.”

“Oh to tell you my story is to tell of Him.”
BCH has an outstanding foster family in Richlands, NC. The mother works for the school system and the father is an auto-mechanic. They have a real heart for God and for serving the children in their community. The couple recently cared for a sibling group of three—one boy and two girls. The children absolutely loved being in their home and felt a part of the family. Before the children returned to live with their aunt, each made a decision for Christ and chose to be baptized.

“Oh to tell you my story is to tell of Him.”
“I am 14 years old. I have lived at BCH for one year and eight months. My biological mother was on drugs when me and my twin brother were born. She could not take care

of us, so we were given to a family friend. She also did not take care of us and we were removed and adopted by a loving family. But, our adopted family fell apart and we moved in with an aunt and uncle.

“I started drinking, doing drugs, and hanging out with the wrong friends. I needed help, but didn’t want to come to BCH because I didn’t want to stop my bad habits—or let people help me. I didn’t have Jesus in my heart and I was running because I thought I was too far gone.

“On July 8, I accepted God into my life and realized I couldn’t keep running from Him. I’m growing in my relationship with my family, working to be a good example to others, and growing closer to God.”

“Oh to tell you my story is to tell of Him.”

Late one night, two little girls came into care—cold, hungry, scared to death. To see the four and six-year-old crying was heart wrenching. You could see evidence of the abuse and neglect. Teddy bears and a snack started to comfort their hearts and a warm bath and new pajamas helped bring a peaceful sleep.

Over the next few months, BCH staff members worked building healthy relationships and sharing the love of Christ. The girls began experiencing the unconditional love they had never known. Counseling started them on a new journey of healing and, eventually, their path led to a loving adoptive family.

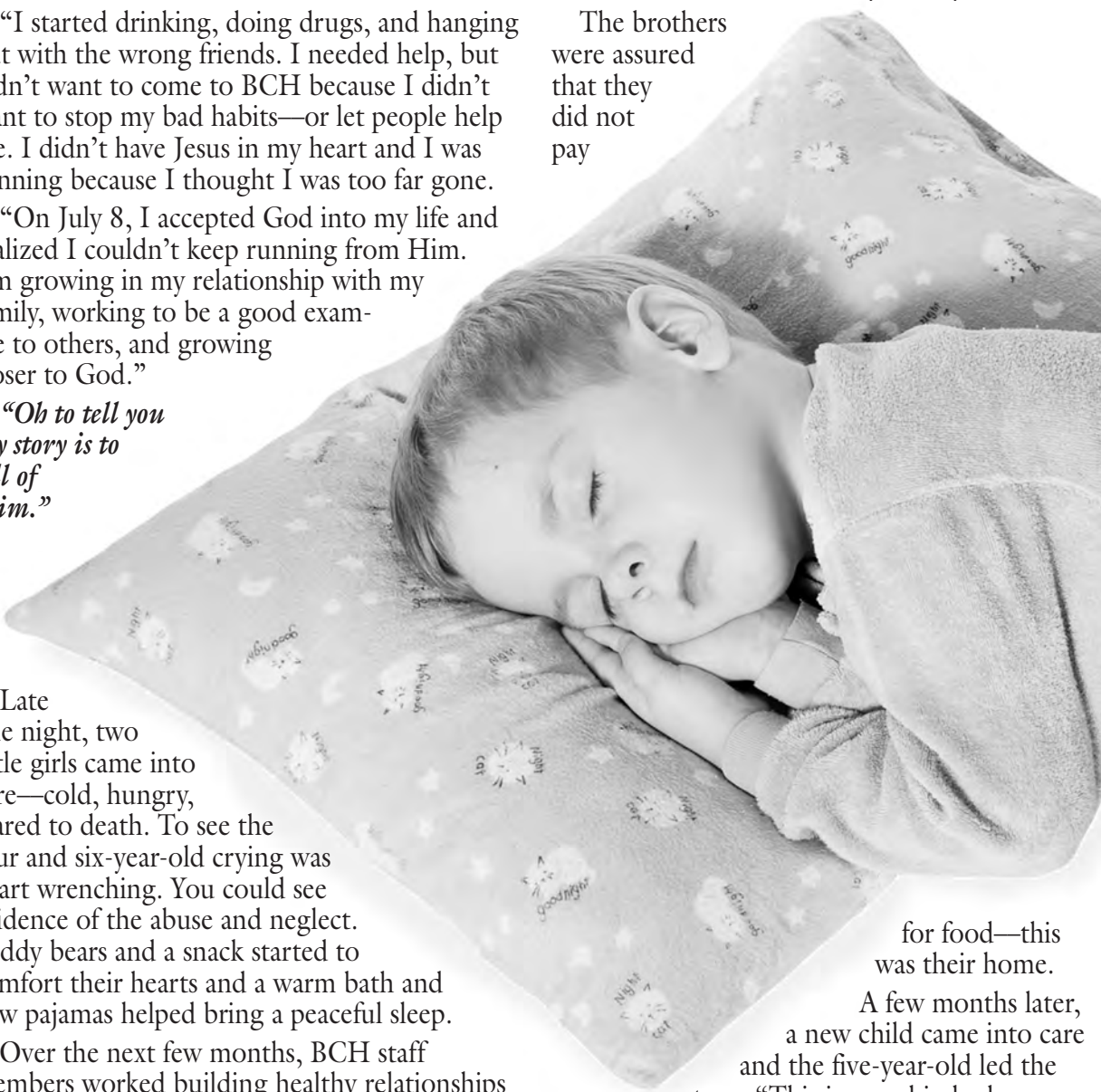
“Oh to tell you my story is to tell of Him.”
The father was on drugs, had lost everything, and with his two children, ages seven and five, were living in a car. Later, the children were found alone after the dad had gone off to get high and failed to come back. They were fearful, cold, and hungry.

When they came into BCH, the house-mother had a balloon for each one and a snack ready. When they entered their bedroom, the seven-year-old exclaimed, “This room is so big. We live in a car. Is this ours?”

That night, with arms wrapped around each

other, the boys slept in one bed—even though there were two. In the morning, the boys sat with the other children at the table for breakfast. The five-year-old asked how much would breakfast cost. “We don’t have any money.”

The brothers were assured that they did not pay



for food—this was their home.
A few months later, a new child came into care and the five-year-old led the tour. “This is your big bedroom and you get to eat every day for free. And the best part, you get hugs anytime and have your own stuff. This is your home.”


“Oh to tell you my story is to tell of Him.”
The song “My Story” ends with these familiar words, “This is my story, this is my song praising my Savior all the day long.”

Stop for a moment, praise God and thank Him for being a part of each of these stories—and many more. Each story is one of hope that wouldn’t let go. Each story is one of love that wouldn’t give up.

Thank you for giving.
Brenda Gray serves BCH as the executive vice president, development & communications and directs fund-raising/friend-raising activities for the ministry.



ANNUAL OFFERING 2020



**Because of you
these two brothers have a home,
a family, and Christ in their hearts.**

Nathen and Tylor were homeless until the brothers found a home at Baptist Children's Homes (BCH). Today, the boys have found a family with Mark and Janina DeHart, foster parents trained and licensed through BCH's Family Foster Care ministry, who adopted them in 2019. **Their incredible story would not be possible without churches collecting an Annual Offering.**

As your church participates in the offering during this time of pandemic, it's more important than ever to **share the offering in both in-person and online services.**




Use digital content at **bchoffering.org** to share on your website, e-mails, social media and on your screens in your services. You can also order free print materials.



SHARING HOPE...CHANGING LIVES

Baptist Children's Homes ANNUAL OFFERING

Resources at www.bchoffering.org. Call 336.474.1209 to schedule a speaker.

Week of Prayer: November 15-22, 2020 | **Offering Goal:** \$1,500,000   



Share the story

of the brothers, their new family and their river baptism! Download regular and short versions of their video for your church's in-person and online services. Videos and digital resources (slides, social media, leaders guide, etc.) are at www.bchoffering.org

Your offering

provided homes, hope and healing to

107,000

children, families, and adults in 2019.

703 salvations have been proclaimed in the last five years because you made it possible for the Gospel to be shared.

Anna shares family's love for children

By Jim Edminson, Editor

For 15-year-old Anna Ungerer, an in-person community service project was not an option. The coronavirus pandemic has made high school students rethink how to do many things—both in the classroom and out. Union Academy Charter School in Monroe, where Anna attends, directs students at every grade level to perform community service. Normally, Anna has found projects with a strong face-to-face component. Her next project would be different.

"I needed a project I could do from the safety of my home, and I wanted to help other teens who struggle," Anna says. "My mom and I talked about possibilities and she thought about Baptist Children's Homes (BCH)."

Anna's parents, Susanne and Gerhard Ungerer, are BCH supporters. Susanne is the daughter of former BCH Trustee and former staff member Gene Herrell.

"I grew up loving the Children's Homes," Susanne says. "When Dad was a trustee, we visited campuses and I learned as a child the importance of the ministry. Baptists have a strong commitment to serving hurting children. Like my parents, my husband and I are committed to helping anyway we can."

Anna, her mom and dad, and three sisters attend Shiloh Baptist Church in their hometown.

"I decided to make protective masks for the girls and boys at BCH's wilderness camps to use during the pandemic," she says—then smiles. "But first, I had to learn to sew."

Susanne and Anna's youngest sister Geena taught Anna to sew. Susanne instructed Anna while Geena cut and ironed fabric squares. Anna stitched each mask and added the elastic bands for the ears. In the process, the sisters learned more about Camp Duncan for Girls and Cameron Boys Camp.

"Anna and Geena were fascinated with

Camp Duncan," Susanne remembers. "The more they learned about the girls, the more their hearts opened up to the children in care and the more Geena insisted we all pray for the children."

The family used the "Prayer Guide" published in last month's *Charity & Children* during the family's evening devotions. They prayed using the suggested prompts.

"We just completed the guide last week," Susanne says.

"Our four girls, and Gerhard and I, have all been touched as we learned more about this wonderful ministry."

Anna completed 30 masks. She and her family look forward to the day when the virus no longer limits visits to BCH's facilities.

"I want to see Camp Duncan and meet the girls," she says.

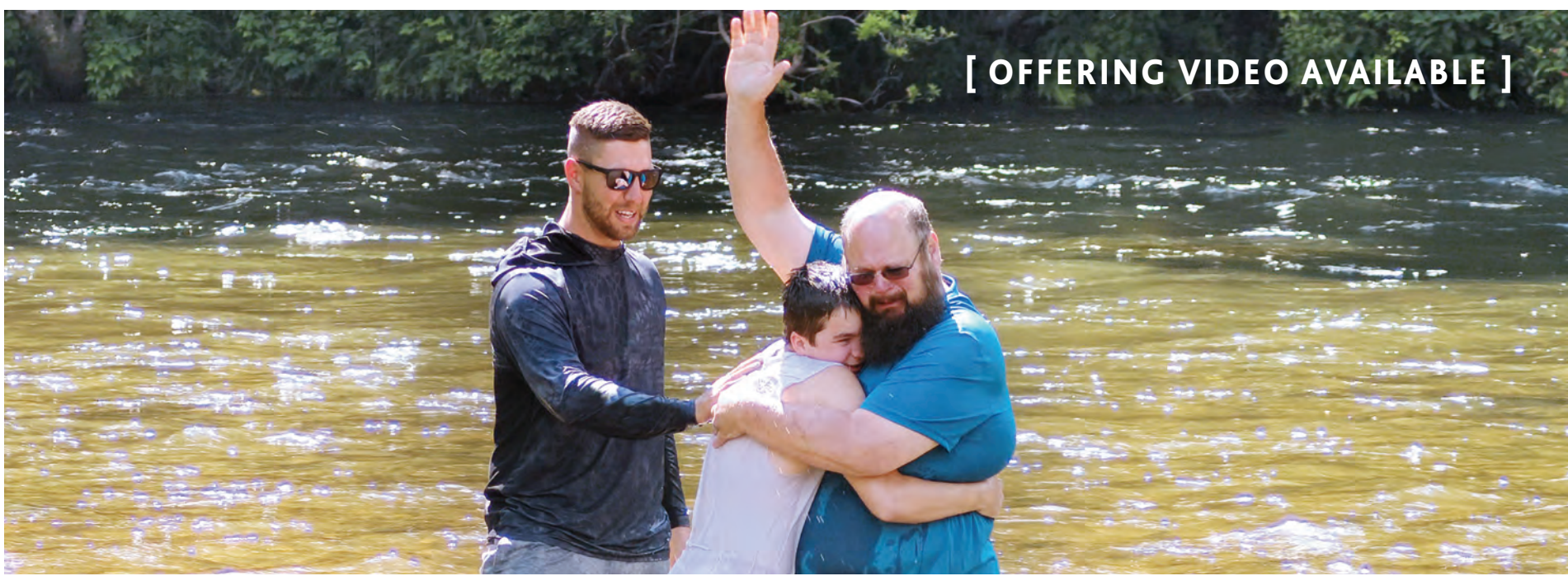
BCH president/CEO Michael C. Blackwell was thrilled to learn of Anna's project and hear whose granddaughter she is.

"We're so proud of Anna," Blackwell says. "She is part of a family tradition that has always gone above and beyond the call. Her grandfather served BCH with distinction. Gene is now 82, but he remains an outstanding churchman who loves the Lord. Over the years, he has opened countless doors that brought blessings from around Union County and the surrounding area to BCH's children and residents."



Anna Ungerer

To download the Prayer Guide, go to:
www.bchnc.org/pg2020.



New video, digital content vital in *sharing the story*

Mark DeHart embraced his son Nathen as he was raised from the baptismal waters. It was more than he could have dreamed, to help baptize Nathen and his other son Tylor in the Tuckasegee River. The story of the two homeless brothers, who were fostered and then adopted by Mark and Janina DeHart is moving and inspiring—and the subject of this year's annual offering video.

It is time for North Carolina Baptist churches to help tell Baptist Children's Homes' (BCH) story. It is time for churches to plan, promote, and then invite members to give to this vital offering—an offering that is essential in meeting the physical and spiritual needs of children and families.

“Our goal is to equip pastors and church leadership to share BCH's story in the face of extraordinary circumstances—the COVID-19 pandemic,” says Blake Ragsdale, BCH Director of Communications. Ragsdale is responsible for producing the Annual Offering initiative and promotional resources for churches. “Our churches are our children's champions, and we want to help churches collect their best offering.”

In addition to the print materials created, which includes bulletin inserts, posters, and offering envelopes, Ragsdale provides digital content that can be used to share information across multiple mediums.

“Communicating the offering to church members through technology is going to be vital this year,” he explains. “While some churches have reopened, others are providing services online. Some are doing both. Digital content can enrich both experiences.”

BCH's offering website, www.bchoffering.org, is updated with downloadable content such as slides—that can be projected on screens at in-person services as well as appear online. But the content goes even further.

“Social media, email, and websites are key ways for churches to stay in touch with their members

during these challenging times,” Ragsdale asserts. “Social media posts and graphics are available to be used by churches as they strive to create awareness and promote the offering.”

For the first time, BCH has made an option available for individuals who want to contribute to the offering but are unable to attend an in-person church service through www.bchoffering.org/give. The gift is automatically designated for the offering, and the giver has the option to list the name of their church.

“Online giving this year is essential to a successful offering,” Ragsdale says. “Another way to provide members an online giving option is to add ‘Baptist Children's Homes’ to its own online giving platform and let members know.”

The most important ingredient in the Annual Offering mix is a success story made possible through the generosity of North Carolina Baptists.

“This year's story is particularly special because it follows up on the two brothers, who were homeless and living in a tent, that were featured during last year's offering,” Ragsdale says. “After living at BCH for a year, Nathen and Tylor went to live with the DeHarts, foster parents trained and licensed through BCH's Family Foster Care ministry.”

The continuation of their story is told in the new video entitled “CHOSEN” which is now available as a free DVD or digital download. Last year, the boys were in the department of social services custody and could not appear on camera. Their roles were played by two actors, real-life brothers. In this year's video, the brothers and

their now adoptive parents, Mark and Janina, tell their own story—a story that ends with Nathen and Tylor being baptized.

“There is no better way for a church to help their congregation understand the importance of the offering than to share these boys' story,” Ragsdale says. “Watch the video and see how God uses them, through prayers and financial support, to transform lives.”

Long and short versions of the video are available on a free DVD or as a digital download at www.bchoffering.org/videos. As churches approach the time to collect its BCH offering, they are encouraged to show the video during in-person services and in their online services as well as on social media platforms. Churches will also want to show it as often as possible.

“Nathen and Tylor not only have a family because of North Carolina Baptists, but they have Christ in their hearts,” Ragsdale says. “They have a home and they have hope.”



TIPS FOR CHURCHES:

- 1. Create awareness during in-person and online services.** Whether meeting onsite, online only, or both, share the story to prepare your congregation.
- 2. Use all forms of electronic communication.** Whatever is used to stay in touch with members (social media, e-mail, website, etc.), share the video and digital content from bchoffering.org.
- 3. Offer an online giving option.** Let members know they can give in person or online. Add “Baptist Children's Homes” as an option on your church's online giving platform.

New Info

The Food Roundup, originally scheduled for April, was postponed due to the pandemic. Since that time, the needed items list and the pick-up points where food and items will be collected have been updated. Thank you for being the hands and feet of Christ—especially during this challenging time.

MOST NEEDED ITEMS:

- Paper Products (paper towels, toilet paper, Kleenex, napkins)
- Hand Sanitizer
- Clorox & Lysol wipes
- Household cleaning products (i.e. bleach, Comet, Lysol spray, Clorox spray, Windex, Pinesol, Pledge, Tilex, etc.)
- Canned Fruits
- Fruit Juice (Apple, Orange, Grape, Cranberry)
- Laundry Detergent
- Copy/Printer Paper
- Baked Beans
- Bottled Water
- Dry Cereal
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Pasta (Spaghetti, Lasagna, Macaroni)
- Canned Tomatoes (diced, sauce, paste)

- Pancake Mix and Syrup
- Soups (All types & condensed)
- Sugar (Granulated & Brown)
- Flour
- Splenda
- Popcorn, Kettle Corn
- Apple Sauce
- Fruit Pie Filling (Cherry and Peach)
- Beverage Mixes (Tea, Tang, Kool-Aid, Lemonade, Cider Mix - All Sugar Free)
- Vegetable Oil, Shortening, Olive Oil, Pam Cooking Spray, Bakers Choice
- Canned Sweet Potatoes, Canned Yams
- Canned Meats (pink salmon, tuna, roast beef, chicken - packed in water)
- Stuffing Mix
- Gravy Mixes
- Hamburger, Chicken, and Tuna Helper (all types)

- Pickles (Sweet & Dill)
- Refried Beans
- Hot Chocolate Mix
- Snack Foods with & without sugar (Fruit Rollups, Fruit Cups, Beef Jerky, Slim Jims, Pepperoni Sticks, Cheese Nips, Pretzels, etc.)
- Health Snacks (Dried Fruit, Nuts, Raisins, Cranraisins, Trail Mix)
- Individual Cookie Packs
- Jello
- PopTarts
- Rice
- Instant Potatoes (scaloped, au gratin, mashed, julienne)
- Muffin Mixes
- Bisquick Mix
- Kidney Beans
- Pickle Relish
- Cranberry Sauce
- Mac & Cheese
- Corn Meal
- Jiffy Mixes, Corn Muffin Mix
- Potatoes
- Hush Puppy Mix
- Peanut Butter
- Jelly, Jams, Preserves (Strawberry is their favorite)
- Pizza & Pizza Dough Mix

- Saltine Crackers, Ritz Crackers, Graham Crackers
- Sauces (A-1, Steak, BBQ, Texas Pete, Cheese, Worcestershire, Soy, Teriyaki, Sweet & Sour)
- Spices and Seasonings (including Salt & Pepper)
- Dishwashing detergents
- Laundry pre-treating products (i.e. Shout, Spray and Wash)
- Brooms, Mops, Scrub Brushes, Dust Pans
- Foil and Plastic Wrap
- SOS Pads
- Fabric Softener
- Dryer Sheets
- Sanitary Pads & Tampons
- Hand Lotion
- Shampoo
- Body Wash
- Soap

OTHER NEEDED ITEMS:

- Brownie & Cookie Mix
- Canned Vegetables
- Individual Chef Boyardee cups
- Clif brand nutrition bars
- Hot Dog Chili
- Coffee (Regular & Decaf)
- Coffee Creamer
- Sweetened Condensed Milk

- Evaporated Milk
- Dehydrated Food (powdered milk & eggs, dehydrated meals)
- Flavorings (Vanilla, etc.)
- French Fried Onions
- Honey
- Ketchup
- Mustard
- Oatmeal
- Parmesan Cheese
- Puddings, Pudding Cups
- Salsa
- Vinegar
- Paper Products (Cups, Plates, Bowls, Plastic Ware, Dixie Cups)
- Trash Bags (large & small)
- Zip-Loc bags (Sandwich, Snack, Quart & Gallon Sizes)
- Band Aids
- Rubbing Alcohol/Peroxide
- Anti-bacterial ointment
- Razors
- Shaving Cream/Shaving Gel
- Dental Floss
- Hair brushes
- Deodorant
- Conditioner
- Tooth Paste
- Tooth Brushes
- Diapers (all sizes)
- Baby Wipes
- Bug Repellent

- Wasp/Hornet Spray
- Sunblock 30+
- Batteries (AA, AAA and D)
- Disposable Gloves (Latex & Non-Latex)

Additional info:

Gift Cards are greatly appreciated to buy perishables and items not received. (i.e. Walmart, Sams Clubs, Food Lion, Lowes, Ingles, Piggly Wiggly, etc.)

We can use all size cans. Some locations prefer #10 cans (family size).

Please check for expired dates on food -- we can't accept expired items.

Please help our volunteer truck drivers by packing your church's donations in small, sturdy boxes. Please do not pack chemicals with food.

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Brier Creek Association
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Caldwell Association
Darlene Townsend/Dale Fisher
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Cape Fear Network of Baptist Churches
Pine Valley BC
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Paula James
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Emily Martin
828-437-0137

Catawba Valley Assoc.

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Rev. Jerry Anderson
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Cheoah Association
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Teresa Powell
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Gail King
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2. Grace Baptist, Madison
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3. Hamptons Hights, Eden
Pastor Nate Wood
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Dock Association
Richard Collins
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Eastern Association
1. Charity Baptist Men on Missions, Rose Hill
Sandra Winstead
910-289-2019
2. Grove Park BC
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910-574-9829

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Karen Weaver
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Teresa Sams
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Haywood Association
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828-627-9254
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Johnston Comm. College
Carolyn Tharrington
919-934-3749
Liberty Association
Mills Home
336-474-1200

Little River Association

Cameron Boys Camp
Sandy Snyder
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Macon Association
Gary Holland
828-524-3215
Metrolina Association
Beth Rose
704-375-1197 ext. 103
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Judy Greer
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336-226-0249
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910-347-3146
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Craig Clayton
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Darcell Mangan/Jonas Perez
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Sandhills Association
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Sandy Snyder
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Sandy Creek Association
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Sandy Run Association
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KenWood
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Facebook Homecoming lifts spirits and hearts — Alumna remembers clothing sponsors with affection

By Lib Smathers Johnson (336) 299-7412 libsjohnson@triad.rr.com

We were all saddened and disappointed when the alumni council announced that we needed to cancel the 2020 Mills Home (MH) Homecoming. With many weeks of dealing with our locked down lives, we accepted the fact that we would not be gathering on our normal special weekend.

Things seemed quiet and sad as July 31 passed, then August 1, but on August 2, things were different. This joyful Sunday morning erupted when many of us opened up Facebook accounts to enjoy a happy greeting from MH staff Rusty Bunker, Randy Stewart and Regina Keener. That started a day to be remembered. Dozens of us quickly joined in by sharing comments and photos from past Homecomings, and the fun was in full swing. We also had some of our friends from Thomasville High School (THS) and alumni children joining the celebration. A lot of good memories were brought up and it was a special Homecoming that we had not expected.

It was especially warming to our spirits to see so many photos from previous Homecomings. It was not the same as being at MH, but it was certainly heart-warming and satisfying to our souls. Many gracious comments were made thanking everyone for sharing their vintage photos. Among those who shared were: **Pat Heath Beck, Michelle Carter, Phil Christman, Estie Culler, Sue Hooks Elliott, Pati Stroud England, Dusty Jenkins, Lisa Carter Lancaster, Julie Maiden Long, Lexi Palmer, Tina Teodora Rivera, and Barbara Tysinger, and Harry Walls.**

Each August alumni column usually repeats the names of all alumni and former workers and workers' children who passed away in the last year. For alumni, the dates appearing after their names are their dates of entry into BCH care and the date of discharge either by graduation or simple discharge. **In Memoriam: Kenny Amberson, 1951-63; Charles Ray Ashe, 1954-66; Lori Gale Ball Burns, 1939-53; Susan Berndt**

Marazza, 1972-77; Andy Berndt, 1973-80; Alyce Fae Billings Quaintance, 1947-49; Tommy Brackett, 1942-54; Joe Harmon Byrd, 1937-49; Brenda Gantt Garren Kerr, 1962-66; Lynn Garner, 1986-2020, staff; Rev. John Gray, husband of Brenda Gray, staff; John Wayne Horne, 1953-68; Marjorie Isenhour Proctor, 1935-44; Joey Lambert, 1958-64; Robert Mull, 1942-47; Tommy H. Owen, 1960-65; Regina Passmore Quinn, 1943-55; Raymond Jack Phillips, 1955-62; Bertha Poole Slate, 1942-51; Clotine Price Alford, 1944-54; Glen Randolph, 1947-53; Thelma Toney Welborn Gobble, 1941-52; and Robert (Bob) Yarborough, 1939-45.

We were saddened in mid-July to hear that **Bertha Elizabeth Poole Slate** died on July 16. Bertha entered MH with siblings **Bill and Jerry** in 1942. She graduated in 1951. She enjoyed life on campus and was appreciated not only for her beauty but also for the kindness she showed to her MH siblings when they had to be kept in the infirmary (old Woman's Building) where she had assisting "duty." After breaking her hip a couple of years ago, Bertha was moved to a Nursing facility in Lexington where she was reunited with an old MH friend, **Thelma Tony Gobble**. The two of them remained in close contact with another MH friend **Mary Alice Tucker** who lived nearby. Bertha spent most of her adult years in Thomasville married to **Donald Slate**. The two of them are survived by offspring **Rodney, William, and Donna**, their spouses, six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Friends can leave a message to the family in the guestbook on Bertha's memorial page at the J.C. Green Funeral Home website in Thomasville. Her funeral was held on July 23. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you prayerfully consider a donation to Slate Aid Group, 46 E. Main Street, Thomasville, NC 27360, a non-profit that helps the less fortunate in the community.

Bill Byerly and his lovely wife **Verna** have sent word that they are planning their annual picnic

on October 3. Everyone is invited. Mark your calendars and keep an eye out for full details on Facebook, the MH website, and the upcoming *Charity & Children*.

Thanks to Margaret **Powell Armstrong** for her update sheet. She entered MH from Randolph County in 1961 with siblings **Mary, Ellis, Charles, and Gail**. She graduated in 1967. She was active taking advantage of fun and work opportunities like swimming and diving, singing in the choir, and working at the library, freezer locker, and sewing room. She especially loved the ever so popular "valley time" when she might spend time swimming or being daring on the "ocean wave." After leaving MH, she trained to be a teacher and taught art for 40 years. She married and had two children and now has two grandchildren. She loves being at Homecoming for the church service and renewing old friendships. Her twin Mary and brother Charles are deceased. Friends can contact Margaret at margaretart@icloud.com.

A note from **Michelle Walker** reads: "I entered Mills Home in 1985 and left in 1988. During those years, I was fortunate to have three lady sponsors who provided me with clothing and other gifts. Their names were **Phyllis Cameron, Libby Warren**, and her sister, the late **Lois Thomas**. After I left MH, I stayed in touch with those beautiful, amazing women. Each day, I thank God for putting them in my life. I started a family fairly soon after leaving and I am blessed to have two grown married daughters who have blessed **Mark** and me with four beautiful grandchildren. I enjoy staying in touch with my MH siblings by communicating by Facebook."

I was happy to become acquainted with **Michael Phillips** through one of the MH Facebook pages. He was trying to locate some photos from his days on campus so several of us helped him. He particularly wanted to locate a copy of the poster in which he was featured in 1993. We were able to learn even more about him when he put

together a little personal history for us. Michael entered the care of BCH in April of 1992. He was placed in an emergency cottage with the **MacDonalds** as houseparents. Shortly thereafter, he was moved to the Hutchinson Cottage near the large BCH arch. He wrote: "The next cottage I lived in was Alumni Cottage. I loved the **Leonardi's** who were the houseparents. I'm glad they knew I liked them. I was willing to do anything for them. While I was adjusting to my life at MH, the Leonardi's helped arrange for me to visit the Mocks family every other weekend. I appeared with two campus girls, **Marcia and Donika**, on BCH's Thanksgiving Offering poster. That was one of my most favorite memories.

"When I turned 16, I was eligible to go into the Preparation for Adult Living program. I was allowed to have an off-campus job that enabled me to save enough money to buy a car. I attended THS and graduated in 1996. After graduation, I worked at Hardee's on Main St. for three years. I was planning to go to GTCC to study computer animation, but my mother, whom I had not seen but once in four years, asked me to live with her. I agreed and went to live with her in New Mexico. What a mistake! Nine months later, I moved back realizing I should have stuck with the plans. But things have been ok for me. Presently, I am recuperating from open heart surgery and looking forward to returning to work."

Please keep Michael in your prayers as he continues recuperating. He can be contacted at 201 Virginia Dr., Thomasville, NC 27360, 336-941-7579 or georgiabulldog303@gmail.com.

We were deeply saddened to learn of the passing of **Sandra Corder**, wife of **Coach Darrel Corder**. I will write more about Sandra in the next issue.



Lib Johnson was a resident of Mills Home from 1946 to 1957. Johnson began writing the Mills Home alumni column in 1992.



Making News Every Day Around the State



Camp Duncan in Aberdeen Campers create new cross

The girls at Camp Duncan built this beautiful cross and put it up at their outdoor chapel. The girls and their chiefs study the Bible and have services in the chapel located in the woods on camp property.



Mills Home in Thomasville Volunteers assist with trees

Members of LIVESENT Ministries in Charlotte volunteered their services in August. They donated their time and equipment to cut back problematic trees across the Mills Home campus.



HOMEbase in Cullowhee College outreach receives award

BCH's college outreach at Western Carolina University received the Excellence in Community Partnership Award from the University's Center for Community Engagement and Service Learning.



Broyhill Home in Clyde Restaurant raises \$8,000

Barry Cogburn and Angel Stockton, owners of Black Bear Cafe in Canton, presented BCH's Linda Morgan with an \$8,000 donation. The restaurant raised funds for Broyhill selling lunches on July 26.



Mills Home in Thomasville Pastor delivers supplies

Pastor Cameron McGill and his daughter (left) brought food and supplies collected by his church for the annual Food Roundup. He serves as Lead Pastor of Lake Church in White Lake.



Three Forks Home in Zionville Resident celebrates birthday

R.L. celebrated his 74th birthday in August with his fellow residents and caregivers at Three Forks Home. It is one of BCH's nine homes for intellectually/developmentally disabled adults.



Weekday Education in Thomasville Children dress as superheroes

Boys and girls attending BCH's Weekday Education centers in Thomasville dressed as superheroes recently. Everyday during the week was a different theme and opportunity to dress up.



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www.odumhome.org
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12. Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities
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www.hereismyhome.org
13. NC Baptist Aging Ministry
Sandy Gregory, Dir., 336-474-1221
www.ncbam.org
14. Good Shepherd Children's Home in Guatemala Keith Henry, COO,
336-474-1215



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Medlin recalls boys' sadness over Babe's passing — Alum remembers her journeys on a Greyhound Bus

By **John Thompson**, 110 Lee K. Allen Drive, Havelock, NC 28532 (252)671-3515 jthompson117@ec.rr.com

By the time your are reading this column, my lovely wife **Becky** and I will have celebrated 55 years of marriage and her 75th birthday on August 22—we were both 21 at our nuptials. We have been blessed with two sons, their wives, and four grandchildren. When Becky and I moved to KH in 1972, our youngest son was in diapers. That was a long time ago. Now he is 50.

I remain the organist at the Cherry Point Baptist Church of Havelock. Rev. Steve Epperson is the pastor. He knows how to speak the Word.

I'm so sorry we had to cancel the beach retreat. We can't take chances with this virus. However, **Alice Sisk** is hosting lunch on October 3 at 2111 West Fort Macon Road, #206 (located at the Dunes Villas). Call her at 417-569-6112 to let her know you are coming. She needs a head count. Hot dogs, hamburgers, and Bratwurst will be served. Please call no later than September 30 to say if you're coming. Her brother **Buddy Sisk** and his wife **Dana** will also be there with them. It sounds like a great time. With Becky's health issues, we probably won't be able to attend. I encourage everyone to use caution and remember to bring your masks, use social distancing, and wash your hands often.

Did you know that BCH's very own Santa Claus is now in the Santa International Hall of Fame? We are all so proud of **Jim Dyer** and how he shares Christ in so many dynamic ways. He is also known as the "Pastoral Santa" of Wake Forest, NC.

In my last column, folks shared about special houseparents. I'm picking up from the last issue with **Tom and Sally Koblinsky** (72-79) They were beloved. Sally and Tom have both gone to live in Heaven now. They were a Christian couple who loved their job and even kept up with many of their "youngins" after they left KH. They served

in the Biggs Cottage. Sally made that place come alive with all that she did. They were the kind of houseparents who knew how to reach the children.

Here is a note from Sally that I received some time ago: "Hi, John. I see where you want some stories about KH food. We had so many great cooks. The men could really cook delicious pots of seafood stew. Their big black pots of stew would be shared with all including the staff. Another speciality was when the men cooked a great big pig. Pigs and cattle were both raised on campus. We also had the oldest Holstein dairy farm in the state.

"On weekdays at Biggs Cottage, we served cereal with the added treat of chocolate toast. On Saturdays, Tom would cook eggs to order—just like the children wanted. Some were scrambled, sunny side up, over easy—you name it. Tom loved cooking what the children wanted and they really loved him. **Mrs. Dot Gurganus** was our main cook for the cottage and she made some of the best pound cakes and pies you have ever put in your mouth. They were fit for a king to eat."

Babe Ruth was a hero to the boys on campus in his day. **Dan Medlin** lived at KH in the 40s. He recalls that on August 16, 1948, approximately 15 of the boys were camping out down in what we called the "river field." It was on a Saturday. Some of the boys there were: **Wayne Rhodes** and **Albert Spellman** and his brother **Grover**. **KH Superintendent W.C. Reed** really believed in these types of activities for the boys.

Dan writes: "We looked down the road and saw Mr. Reed's car come out of the wood path toward us. He called us all together to tell us some bad news—Babe Ruth passed away. We all looked up to Babe Ruth as our hero since he to was raised in an orphanage. You could tell Mr. Reed hated to tell us the bad news."

The KH boys and girls take classes just like other children. Many times, I was asked to ride with a youngin to the license office to take a driver's test. There were times when one would run off the road and scare me to death. But then they would get there and pass the test—I think they were just trying to shake me up.

Some of the youngins became bus drivers on campus and drove the children to public school.

Georgia Roach lived at KH during the 1970s and shares some of her driving experiences. She writes: "When I attended North Lenoir High, I took driver's ed. The thought of driving worried me. But to think of the car I would have to drive—terrified me. It didn't seem like a car but a military tank. It was so big—especially for me. My right foot shook so much, I could barely keep it on the gas pedal. Remembering back then, I know I got a few looks because I felt like an ant in that big car. I don't remember what make or model now, it was just big.

"Even today, I recall thinking, 'I've got to do this if I'm going to make it in this world.'"

"It wasn't a choice, but a command I said to myself. Although I took my time and crept down the road in that car, I never hit anyone or anything and got my license a few months later.

"Guess I still remember the respect I had for an automobile since I've only had one or two speeding tickets in all these years—not bad. I'm not mentioning the red light I was accused of running. Honestly, I was under that light when it changed. I still got a ticket and I'm still upset about it—and this was more than 40 years ago.

"My hat goes off to the people that trusted some of us early drivers at KH, for without their trust and confidence, we would still be walking!"

When I was in high school,

I didn't have to take driver's ed—I was 16. Becky on the other hand did take driver's ed and it lasted a whole year back then. I would sit in study hall and see her get in the car with the teacher and a boy of whom I was very jealous.

It is hard for me to believe, but my youngest grandchild has just finished with driver's education class at Havelock High School.

Donna Daniels Wade shares: "Recently, I saw a Greyhound bus and was reminded that back in the day, there were two bus lines—Greyhound and Trailways. I spent many hours on the bus during my time at KH. Back then, we had a time once a month that we could go home for a visit. Our parents came one weekend and we could go home one weekend or to a 'visiting home.' I would travel by bus to Robeson County—where I was from. If I had traveled by car, the trip would take about two and a half hours. However, a bus trip extended the time by hours, usually taking 5-6 to get home. Sometimes my siblings traveled with me—at least part of the way—which made the trip less lonely. On one trip, I fell asleep on the bus and missed my stop—ending up in Wilmington instead of Lumberton. The visitation family was definitely not overjoyed having to drive to Wilmington to pick me up.

"On another trip, I forgot my clarinet on the bus. It took some finagling to procure a replacement clarinet in time to march in the Christmas Parade. Traveling by bus sure did make life interesting."

Remember that you are always welcome at the home of Becky and John Thompson, 110 Lee K. Allen Drive in Havelock, NC. We love seeing you. Call us if you need us. Don't forget, write me some articles to use another time. Love ya!—jt



John Thompson served at Kennedy Home from 1972-1977. Today, he enjoys a very active retirement.

Big life lessons learned in kindergarten

By Jim Edminson, Editor

My love of learning started in kindergarten class with Miss Jones, my teacher with bobbed hair and hairband, kind spirit and sweet smile. In the early days when I missed my mom and had tummy aches, she consoled me and redirected my focus to building castles with colorful blocks and creating masterpieces with crayons and scribble pads. Soon Miss Jones and school were the highlight of my day. I looked forward to her reading stories and demonstrating drawing numbers and letters. Like many five-year-olds, I believed my teacher held the secret to the most important life lessons.

In his book *All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten*, Robert Fulghum shares 14 lessons he learned as a child that should never be forgotten as an adult. Some are great to remember as we care for ourselves—such as “take a nap,” “warm cookies and cold milk are good for you,” and “wash your hands before you eat.” Six of his lessons are focused on how we should relate to others.

His instructions include: share everything, play fair, don’t hit people, don’t take things that aren’t yours, and say you’re sorry when you hurt somebody. He does not specifically use these two words, but what he reminds the reader is “be kind.” For kindergartners as well as adults, there is no room for meanness and disrespect.

Fulghum, in unison with Miss Jones

and kindergarten teachers across the ages, asserts we should love ourselves, but then reminds us that everything is not about us. Jesus says it simply: “Love others as much as you love yourself.”

Teachers of older students give similar lessons. Kathy teaches high-schoolers. Because of COVID-19, she instructs both in her physical classroom and online in a virtual classroom she created with a desk, a stylish, mask-wearing, emoji, and a sign on the virtual classroom wall that reads “Be Kind.” A similar sign hangs in her actual classroom.

As important as it is to teach her students reading and writing, she emphasizes the transformative power of being kind. She challenges her teens to respect one another. She reminds students of the “good” things they learned in kindergarten.

Her students are uncertain about these pandemic days, so Kathy encourages them, out of respect for classmates and community, to wear masks, keep social distance, and wash hands often. Students in her school have been quarantined for exposure and teens know people who have been diagnosed with this menacing disease. It is a challenging time.

In contrast, five-year-old granddaughters Emmalie and Maggie are beginning kindergarten this month—and they are ready! These cousins have been counting the days to begin their own school journey. Maggie begins in

Texas under the care of Ms Kirk while Emmalie starts in North Carolina in the class of Ms Skipper. Despite the seriousness of the coronavirus, both girls are excited about getting to know their teachers and new friends. Moms and dads have coached their daughters on safety protocols and the girls have paid attention. Their back-to-school outfits include stylish masks: Emmalie’s has bold color-splashed patterns and Maggie’s are custom-made by her Nana to suit her bubbly personality. The parents conceal their anxiety as best they can.

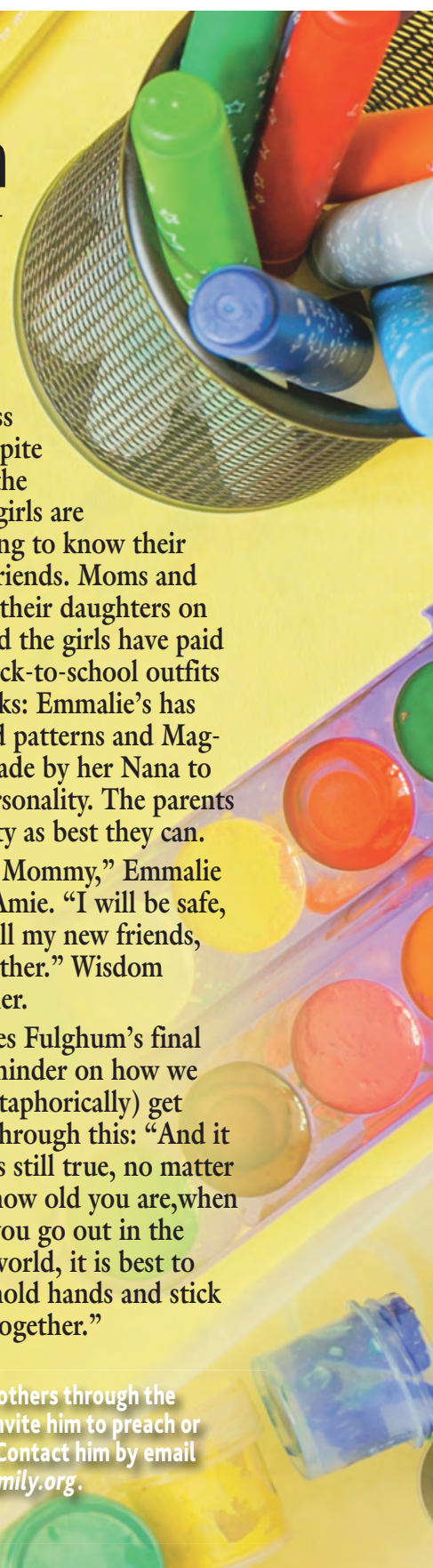
“It will be okay, Mommy,” Emmalie tells my daughter Amie. “I will be safe, and besides, with all my new friends, we will help each other.” Wisdom from a kindergartner.

She almost echoes Fulghum’s final words, a sound reminder on how we will all (at least metaphorically) get



through this: “And it is still true, no matter how old you are, when you go out in the world, it is best to hold hands and stick together.”

Edminson encourages others through the Good News of Jesus. Invite him to preach or speak at your church. Contact him by email at wjedminson@bchfamily.org.



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