



Share Christmas joy!

You can be a part of making Christmas memories in the lives of children while also sharing the hope found through Christ's birth. *(Read more on page 3)*

Charity & Children

The historic publication of Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina—first to tell the story since 1887.

     @bchfamily

November 2025

Issue 9

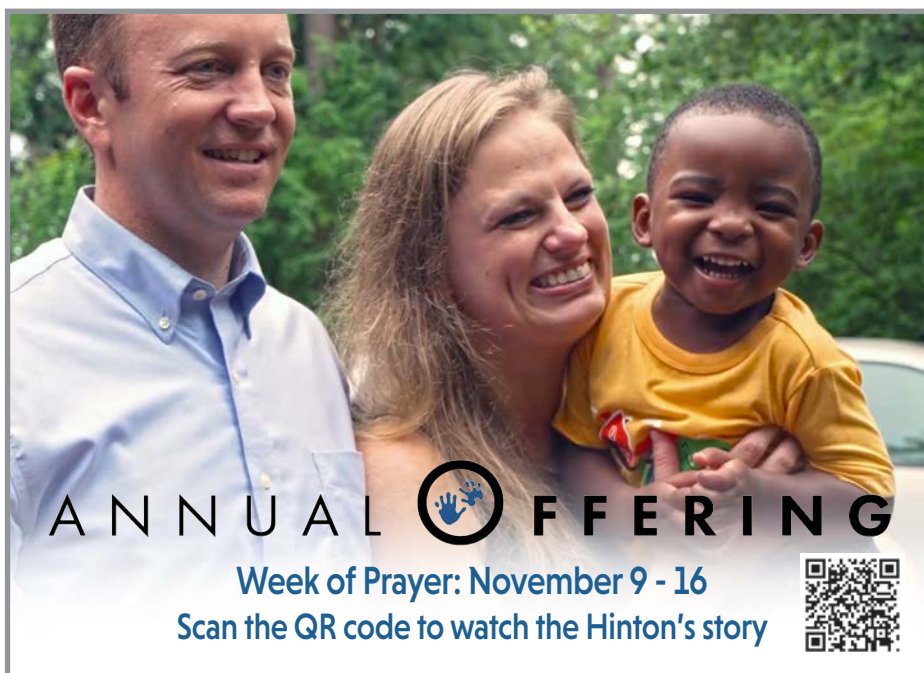
Volume 138

EVERY *Child*
EVERY *Church*

To help **EVERY** child,
it takes the help of
EVERY church.

It starts with one
yes.

Read more on pages 4 & 5, including a special message from Baptist Children's Homes CEO David Melber—**GRACE in Action: 140 Years of Proclaiming Christ through Compassionate Care**



ANNUAL OFFERING

Week of Prayer: November 9 - 16

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 **RECEIVE A MONTHLY EMAIL WITH WAYS YOU CAN PRAY. SCAN THE CODE OR GO TO [BCHFAMILY.ORG/PRAYER](https://bchfamily.org/prayer)**

See the prayer guide on page 8

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\$325,000
Matching Gift Challenge

Your gift is **DOUBLED!**

EVERY gift you give between Oct. 1, 2025 and Jan. 31, 2026 will be **MATCHED** dollar for dollar up to the \$325,000 challenge goal! You can change a child's life by scanning the code or giving at bchfamily.org/givenow



Friends of Children: Serving with all your heart

By **Kristyn Butts**, BCH Director of Volunteer Engagement

We are reminded in Colossians 3:23: “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters.”

This verse came to life across Baptist Children’s Homes (BCH) campuses this fall. The sounds of pressure washers, chain saws, mowers, hammers, and—most importantly—the joyful noise of volunteers filled the air. Friends of Children is such a treasured season for BCH. From Oak Ranch to Kennedy Home, Mills Home, Odum Home, and Cameron Boys Camp, hundreds of volunteers from across North Carolina came together for a one-day mission blitz.

With hands of all ages and skills, our NC Baptist family, neighbors, and friends worked side by side—cleaning, landscaping, painting, cooking, repairing, and cutting wood. Yes, many projects were completed, but more than that, countless relationships were built and strengthened. To step onto a BCH campus is to experience the breadth and depth of this ministry in a way words can hardly capture.

At the close of each service day, staff, children, and volunteers gathered in fellowship, celebrating together all the Lord has done—and continues to do—through BCH. These moments remind us that while the work itself matters—painting a room, cleaning a cottage, sorting donations, or fixing a fence—the true purpose is much greater.

The end goal is not the completion of a task, but the growth of God’s Kingdom. Each project becomes a vessel for the love of Jesus to shine. As brothers and sisters in Christ, we labor to break the chains of sin, to shatter cycles of abuse and trauma, to offer hope to the hopeless, and to bring restoration to the broken—all through the redeeming power of Christ. This is the greater mission you join each time you serve with BCH.

We are deeply grateful. Every prayer whispered, every dollar given, every hour sacrificially offered is a priceless

gift. On this side of Heaven, we may never fully know the impact. But we trust that God multiplies each offering for His glory.

Let us continue to serve together—with all our hearts—working not for ourselves, but for the Lord, and sharing the life-giving good news of Jesus Christ.



Top left, volunteers serve in BCH’s development and communications office in Thomasville packing Christmas cards. Top right, volunteers serve at Mills Home removing a dead tree and landscaping. Bottom left, Pastor Stephen Budd of First Baptist Richlands, center, led church members at Kennedy Home. Also pictured (l to r) are BCH’s Wade Parker and Matt Chilson. Bottom right, members of Iglesia Cristiana Emanuel serve at Kennedy Home landscaping around campus.

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

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Share the joy and hope of Christmas

Last winter, one special moment made Baptist Children's Homes (BCH) feel like home. After a beautiful snowfall, the children at Mills Home bundled up and raced to the hills with their sleds. Their laughter echoed throughout the campus, filling my heart with warmth and joy. It was a time to make simple, beautiful memories. At BCH cottages and the many foster homes across the state, God is creating safe, Christ-centered homes where children heal, grow, and enjoy being children.

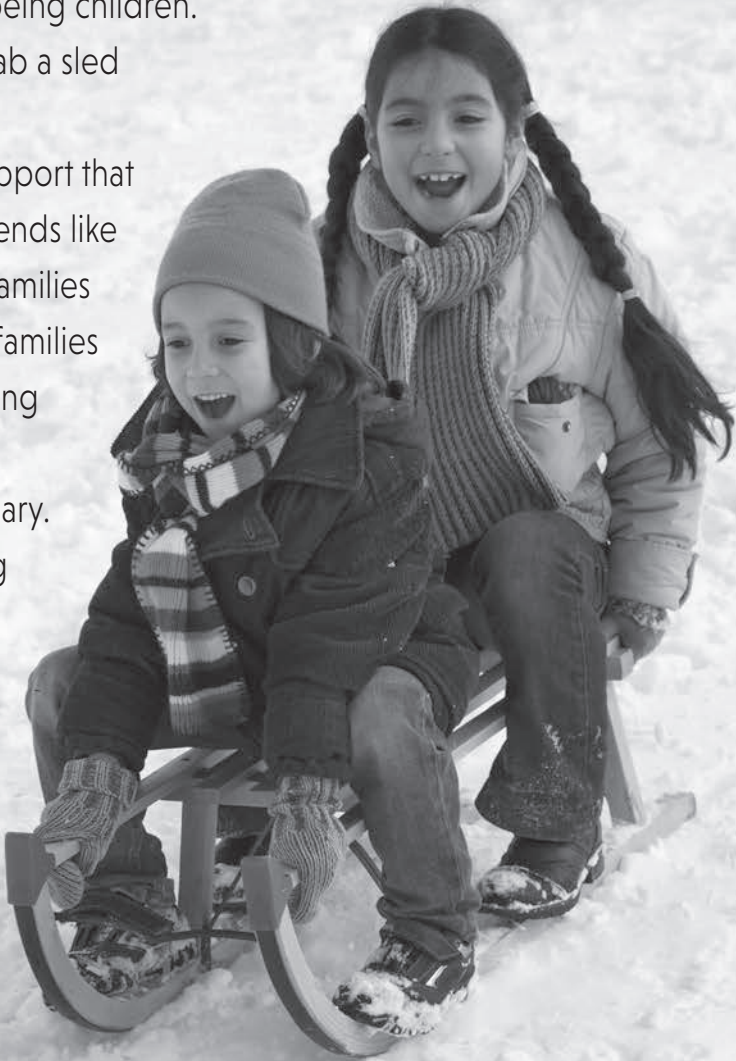
If we're blessed with snow this year, don't be surprised if I grab a sled and join them!

This joyful time was only possible because of the love and support that each child receives from our dedicated caregivers and generous friends like you. Children in our cottages and through our EVERY CHILD foster families experience homes filled with love, stability, and care. These faithful families walk beside each child, planting seeds of joy and hope and providing space for God's redemptive work to take root and flourish.

This Christmas, I invite you to be part of something extraordinary. Your gift can go twice as far thanks to a generous \$325,000 matching challenge—every dollar will be doubled. This is the perfect time for you to become a part of this beautiful story of redemption. Working together, we will see God write new chapters of hope and joy, creating beautiful memories in the lives of children and families who need it most.

Thank you for your heart to serve children and families in Jesus' name.

David Melber | CEO



Double every dollar until January 31, 2026

- ☐ \$50 Christmas for one child
- ☐ \$100 Christmas for two siblings
- ☐ \$300 A cottage holiday outing
- ☐ \$600 Christmas for a cottage
- ☐ \$1,000 A large gift for a cottage
- ☐ \$_____ Any size gift

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EVERY *Child* EVERY *Church*

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Engaged | Equipped | Supported
as you make the name of Jesus known with
the vulnerable lives you serve.

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Baptist Children's Homes

1.800.476.3669 | bchfamily.org | every-child.org

GRACE in Action: 140 years of proclaiming Christ through compassionate care

By **David Melber**, Chief Executive Officer

For generations, Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina (BCH) has stood in the gap for children, families, individuals with developmental disabilities, and aging adults who need care, hope, and restoration. Our mission is simple yet profound: *to proclaim the name of Christ and be instruments that He can use to see families restored, people cared for, and dignity maintained.*

Our calling is twofold: *to serve vulnerable populations and to serve NC Baptists*, the people who make this ministry possible through prayer and partnership. *Together, we are On Mission Together.*

At BCH, grace is more than a theological concept. It is the heartbeat of who we are. Every story of redemption, every act of compassion, and every family restored through Christ is an expression of His grace at work.

This year, as we continue to strengthen our foundation and clarify our focus, the word *GRACE* captures how God is moving in and through this ministry.

G – Gratitude: Thankful for God's Faithfulness

We begin with *gratitude* for the goodness of God and for the partnership of NC Baptists. Every prayer, every hour volunteered, every dollar given to BCH reflects the love of Christ in action.

Your partnership allows BCH to continue serving across every stage of life from newborns to aging adults. When a child is welcomed into a home, when a teen accepts Christ, when an adult with developmental disabilities is celebrated for who they are, or when a senior receives care that restores their sense of belonging or independence, we see the hand of God at work through you.

We are also deeply grateful for our staff and volunteers who serve daily in the trenches of ministry. Their faithful labor is sustained by your prayers, encouragement, and generosity. *Together, we display the grace of God to a watching world.*

R – Resolve: Anchored in Truth

In a world of shifting values, BCH remains anchored to the unchanging truth of Scripture. Recently, our Board of Trustees unanimously affirmed this foundation by adopting the *Baptist Faith and Message 2000 as our official statement of faith.*

This affirmation was not just administrative; it was a declaration of identity. It proclaims that

Christ alone is the center of all we do and that our care for people flows directly from our commitment to Scripture.

Jesus said, *"I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me"* (John 14:6). These words define our purpose.

Our programs and partnerships flow from this unwavering belief that the Gospel transforms lives. We hold fast to God's Word, confident that only through Him can true healing and restoration be found.

This same resolve keeps our staff steady and empowers them to serve with clarity, compassion, and conviction as they demonstrate Christ's steadfast love every day.

A – Alignment: Partnering with the Church for Kingdom Impact

At BCH, we are aligning more intentionally than ever to a Kingdom focus. Not only will *we continue faithfully serving* children, adults, and families, but we also want to *equip*

churches as they serve their local communities. With 140 years of experience in serving vulnerable populations, we are developing *Gospel-saturated, trauma-informed trainings and resources* that help churches extend Christ's compassion beyond their walls.

When the local church reflects the heart of Jesus to the vulnerable, lives change, communities change, and the Kingdom advances. When we align with the church, our collective impact multiplies. Together, we can meet both spiritual and emotional needs while pointing people to the ultimate Healer, Jesus Christ.

C – Christ: The Center of All We Do

Everything at BCH begins and ends with Christ. He is not an addition to our mission. *He is our mission.*

His compassion drives our work. His Gospel fuels our hope. His example shapes our service. Whether we are helping a child heal from trauma, walking with a parent toward restoration, supporting adults with developmental differences, or caring for the elderly, *every act of care is an opportunity to proclaim the hope of Jesus.*

Christ is the thread that unites us, sustains us, and calls us forward.

E – Every Child. Every Church.

This commitment comes to life through the launch of our newest initiative: *Every Child. Every Church.*

Building on our legacy of care, this move-

ment invites churches across North Carolina to step boldly into the mission field, not just to the nations, but to the neighborhoods and mission fields within our own state *to ensure that every child, every family, every person in need has access to the hope of Christ.*

Through this initiative, BCH will:

- *Train churches* to become Gospel-saturated, trauma-informed ministries ready to meet the needs of vulnerable children and families in your communities.

- *Equip congregations* to care well for those within their walls—children with challenging behaviors, families in crisis, families raising children with special needs who long to be included, and aging adults who may feel forgotten.

We are also asking *North Carolina Baptist churches to send missionaries to BCH.* It is a mission call. We pray that the Lord will bring:

- *Christian adoptive and foster families.*

- *Cottage parents* to nurture children in residential homes.

- *Direct-care staff* to serve adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

- *Compassionate caregivers* to serve through our aging and family care programs.

- *Prayer warriors and professionals* leveraging their gifts for the Gospel.

- *Church members* ready to welcome those we serve.

The fields are ripe for harvest right here in North Carolina. When you serve through BCH, you are living out the Great Commission.

When every church is a missionary-sending church, every believer recognizes the mission field in front of them and North Carolina becomes a place where every child knows safety, every family encounters grace, and every person experiences the love of Christ.

GRACE – Jesus changes everything.

This year, we've seen grace in children giving their lives to Christ, in staff walking through hardship with renewed strength, and in volunteers giving sacrificially of their time and resources.

When we walk in grace, we become the instruments God uses to restore what is broken, to bring light into dark places, and to see His Kingdom come—one child, one family, one church, and one missionary at a time.

Our mission is clear. We will stand firm in truth, align every program with Kingdom purpose, and equip *every church* to reach *every child.* We are truly *On Mission Together.*



David Melber

Church's golf tournament exceeds \$130,000 in gifts

By Jim Edminson, Editor

In eastern North Carolina, nine miles north of the historic town of Edenton, Rocky Hock Baptist Church sits amongst fields and farms not far from the Chowan River. Organized in 1835, the group of believers has been faithful to the Gospel, and like many rural churches has served faithfully meeting the needs of people. It is from this deep rooted place that a deep love for the children and families served at Baptist Children's Homes (BCH) comes.

"I remember hearing about the children," Trey Bass recalls. "Learning about the hurt they experienced touched my heart and I wanted to do something. After Hurricane Isabel in 2003, our church helped out at Kennedy Home. We continued to find ways to help any way we could. In 2008, I came to the church about a golf tournament to benefit Baptist Children's Homes."

Trey and a few friends went about planning the tournament. The church threw in their support by volunteering and helping recruit teams. The first four-man superball tournament went off without a hitch.

The Rocky Hock Baptist Church Golf Tournament became an annual event. "From the start, we decided to focus on making it fun for everyone. The Baptist Men committed to making a lunch that today golfers say is the reason they return year after year. We focus on fellowship and our golfers enjoy it and the tournament keeps growing," Trey says.

Trey was raised by Christian parents. Church life was a part of his life. At age 12, he accepted Jesus as his Savior. He remembers being a Royal Ambassador (RA) and the experience impacted him in such a way that he committed to being an RA leader at Rocky Hock, serving the last 20 years and teaching boys grade 1-6.

"The Lord has always been an important part of my life," Trey says. "I teach my RA boys that there are three things to hold tight on to—hope, faith, and trust in the Lord."

It is something Trey puts into action every day. He asserts it is the basis of knowing God: "Without the Lord, life is miserable. I try to



BCH CEO David Melber, left, accepts a check from the proceeds of this year's Rocky Hock Baptist Church Golf Tournament that was held August 2 from church member and tournament director Trey Bass, center, and the church's pastor Matt Dupuy. The church marked the tournament's 17th year with the total proceeds for BCH from the tournament topping \$130,000. The 2026 tournament is already set for August 1.

trust the Lord in everything. I trust Him when planning the tournament every year, hoping it will be better each year. It is what I always do. I look to God. I trust Him to bring the success. We

trust Him for the resources and support needed to produce the tournament. He brings about the blessing. He provides the abundance and we give Him the glory."

This year's golf tournament held on

August 2 marked its 17th year with the accumulative total raised for BCH topping more than \$130,000. This year, 27 teams participated, coming from the church, community, and as far away as neighboring Virginia. Everything is donated, from individuals to corporate sponsors like Pepsi giving what they can to the success of the event. There have been between 50 and 60

hole sponsors every tournament. Trey has found all that is needed is to ask.

"My goal is to raise more than \$20,000 per tournament," Trey confides. "We've come close but it remains our hope."

Trey has not grown tired of producing the tournament and looks forward to each year's event. It can be stressful but his focus on helping children drives him. He says his wife Alanna is important to him continuing his work with the tournament. She tirelessly works behind the scenes, helping every way she can. The final task each year is for the couple to send thank you notes to everyone who is involved.

"The tournament is about relationships," Trey says. "It is about people coming together to help children. It is about this community and our church."

Plans for the 2026 tournament are already in the works, slating the event for August 1 at Occano in Merry Hill. Registration begins at 8:30 and a shotgun start at 9:00 a.m. Grills light up early for lunch.

Trey is a Baptist layman who found a way to use his love for the Lord and for playing golf to make a difference in the lives of hurting children. "I love it," he says. "We are going to do all we can to help."



After 13 years, Hope in Style shines brighter than ever

By **Blake Ragsdale**, Vice President of Communications

Attendees who have long come to the annual Hope in Style event would notice only modest changes throughout the years. The heart of the benefit is always seeing boys and girls who are in the care of Baptist Children's Homes (BCH) shop for new back-to-school clothing, which they wear as part of the program. The amount of time and effort staff and volunteers invest in making sure the subsequent year is better than the last largely goes unseen. This is exactly what the team prefers.

"We don't want the spotlight," shares BCH's Karen Slate. "We want the children to feel seen and cherished—and most importantly, we want the Lord to be seen by everyone in attendance."

Since the first Hope in Style in 2012, Karen has coordinated the benefit with the help of a team of volunteers, many of whom have been on the planning committee since the inaugural event. That continuity has resulted in success, which means an exceptional event-day experience for the audience, affirmation for the children BCH serves, and much-needed funding that empowers the nonprofit to care for vulnerable lives.

For 2025, Hope in Style welcomed its largest audience with nearly 350 people in attendance at the Greensboro Country Club on August 23. With this year's contributions, the event has raised a lifetime total of \$1,210,000.

"I'm in awe of what God has done year after year," Karen reflects. "He's brought together the most incredible volunteers. Their selfless efforts reminds us that when God's people come together, lives are changed and hope shines."



Hope in Style was held on August 23, 2025 at the Greensboro Country Club, the event's location since 2012. Above, guests bid on the variety of items available at the event's silent auction. Above center, volunteer Stephanie Truby with the puppy made available for auction by County Fair Labradoodles. Left below, cottage parent Nancy Grimes walks with one of the children who is wearing her new outfit. Below center, the winning family. Right above, former child in care Roberta Edwards sings a duet with BCH's Brenda Gray. Right below, Karen Slate leads the program.



Join us in PRAYING

Use the guide below to pray for those who are served through Baptist Children's Homes as well as those who are serving. You can sign up to be a monthly **Prayer Partner** by scanning the QR code below or go to the sign up page at **BCHFAMILY.ORG/PRAYER**. You can also choose "Prayer Partners" under the "Get Involved" section on our website.



PRAYER PARTNERS

SIGN UP AT **BCHFAMILY.ORG/PRAYER**



Pray for children and those caring for them

Pray for the school-aged children in care, cottage parents, and our EVERY CHILD foster care families as a new school year begins.

1. **Pray for the children to receive educational and emotional help and support.** Many children in foster care experience academic and emotional delays and challenges.
2. **Pray for each child's teacher.** Pray that in the midst of the challenges and stress that educators face, that each teacher will have a heart of compassion and understanding. Pray that the teacher and BCH child are able to form a positive relationship. Pray that the teacher is an advocate for the child and his/her best interests.
3. **Pray that the Lord provides a special friend for each child.** Many of the children in care have experienced significant loss and loneliness. Pray for friends who are positive examples, and that they are understanding of the unique situations of the children.
4. **Pray for the boys living at Cameron Boys Camp.** Pray that through the 24/7 wilderness program that boys, with support from their Chiefs/mentors, experience healing and reunification with their families.
5. **Pray for Christ's love to be shown.** Pray for our cottage parents, foster families, teachers and others who support and care for children that God's love will shine through them.

Pray for adopted children, families and birth mothers

Children who have been adopted, either domestically or internationally experience an array of emotions and challenges.

1. **Pray for peace, guidance and continued bonding between recently-adopted international children and their families.** Praise God for the two children whose international adoptions through BCH's Christian Adoption Services (CAS) were finalized in 2025. Pray for the six children who are in the post-placement process.
2. **Pray for encouragement and patience for the five host children from 2024 whose families are in the process of adopting them.** Pray that the Lord would work through CAS's hosting process to bring more international children together with Christian forever families.
3. **Pray for God to bring emotional healing and peace.** As our adopted children grow, pray that our Father will protect their hearts and surround them with safe, nurturing love.
4. **Pray for birth moms who choose adoption for their children.** They often return to their communities with little to no support. Pray for our staff, who stay in contact with them after the adoption process, that they are able to support, encourage and share Christ's love with them.

Pray for the intellectually/developmentally disabled (I/DD) adults in our care and their caregivers

We care for I/DD adults in nine different cottages as well as in Alternative Family Living homes throughout North Carolina.

1. **Pray for the caregivers at our I/DD cottage homes.** Caregivers, known as Direct Service Providers, are with our adults 24/7 to care for their needs and also help them reach their highest level of independence.
2. **Pray for our aging residents.** Pray for our many aging residents and their health and daily needs as they get older.
3. **Pray for our Alternative Family Living (AFL) program to thrive.** The in-home program is where an individual or family opens up their home as a safe, stable living environment for an (I/DD) adult. Pray other adults would open up their homes.

Pray for the many vulnerable children and adults who are served through BCH's many ministries

From the tiniest of children to community families, single mothers, and aging adults, we have the privilege of serving the needs of many.

1. **Pray for the community families served through Greater Vision Outreach.** Pray as our staff comes alongside families who are working hard to navigate daily challenges. Pray that we can connect them with resources and aid that not only help them with immediate needs but equip them for success in the future.
2. **Pray for single mothers and children in the family care program.** Single mothers often live with friends or family if they have anywhere to live at all. Pray that through our family care program, our staff can equip moms, while they parent their children, with the resources needed to keep their families together. Pray staff can help them successfully transition to a safe and healthy independent living situation.
3. **Pray for aging adults who find themselves isolated and lonely.** Pray that through the North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry (NCBAM) Hope Line (866.578.4673), that phone volunteers can provide encouragement, prayer and support to aging adults who need greater connection or simply a compassionate, listening ear.
4. **Pray for the indigenous children served in Guatemala.** Pray for the impoverished, and often abandoned, boys and girls who come into care at Good Shepherd Ministries. Pray for the missionaries and staff who are caring for them and introducing them to the gospel.
5. **Pray for college students served through HOMEBASE at Western Carolina.** Many of the students have little or no family support or have aged out of foster care. Pray staff can equip them for success in school and life.

Learning important lessons and building work ethic — Alumni and staff who recently passed remembered

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

In the last *Charity & Children*, I listed our Alumni Council officers for 2025-2026 and promised to list our serving council members. They are as follows: **Johnny Shields, Keith Campbell, Ruth Berndt Hodges, Martha Berndt Foster, Larry Kelly and Rusty Bunker**, Columbarium Director **Sharon DeHart Stiles**, and Publicity Director **Lib Johnson**.

We are very pleased that another fairly young person has graciously agreed to serve on the Alumni Council. I speak of **Larry Kelly** who lives in Thomasville with his wife **Ruth** and their delightful furbaby, **Angel**. Larry entered Mills Home (MH) in 1969 with his sister **Teresa** from Burlington. They had lived in so many foster homes and were quite happy when their beloved caseworker, **Miss Pritchett**, asked if they would like to live at MH. They joyously replied yes. Larry's life was in the hands of MH until 1981 with one year spent in high adventure at Walburg under the care and guidance of Tim Griffin. Living there was an exciting and interesting adventure. The big lesson he learned there was "learn to count on yourself," and he did.

Larry adjusted beautifully to the life at MH. He enthusiastically took part in everything available like the "pickup" basketball games, swims in the pool and dives from the high board, whirling through social times in the valley on the summer evenings, and traipsing to the farm to pick vegetables for **Lugenia** to cook at the Hutchinson or for storage at the freezer locker. Sometimes, in the tomato patch, they had tomato fights and got in a little trouble over their messy clothes. The time picking vegetables that Larry spent was one of the important lessons he had in building a work ethic. Other things that he had to do that built work ethic were cleaning the church and taking charge of playing the chimes. He also became quite skilled at using

the buffer to make shiny floors in the many cottages he lived in over the years and later in his military service. He showed people a thing or two about shiny floors when he shared the secret of using a com-mode lid cover on the buffer. He could produce the shiniest floors in town. He is so good at many tasks that his wife Ruth claims he is a much better "cleaner" than she is.

It was very interesting talking with Larry because he always related things and events to the lessons he learned from them. He recalled fond memories of a lot of MH workers but most especially **Phil Morrow, the Bill Sisk family, and Tim Walther**. He really enjoyed seeing the Sisk daughters **Amelia and Elaine** at Homecoming this year. He sums up his MH experience by saying he was "well blessed beyond measure."

On September 20, **Kaye Trantham Mills** raised a question in one of her visits to the Mills Home Orphanage Memories Facebook Page (run by Harry Walls). The question was "How is the flag pole in the arrangement of five military monuments in front of the Mills Home church connected to **Kevin Harvick**, the very well-known Nascar driver and Fox News Analyst and Commentator from California?" The simple answer is that **Pete Knight** appealed to a couple he knew for funds to place that flag on the campus. That couple was **Kevin and Delana Harvick** whose foundation seeks to benefit underprivileged youth. More on flagpole later.

We were saddened to learn of the death of alumnus **Charles Vest (Tony) Phillips** of Greensboro. Tony died July 22. The family plans to hold a private family service in Raleigh. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that memorials be made in Tony's memory to the Wounded Warrior Project, 4899 Belford Rd., Suite 300, Jacksonville, FL, 32256. Tony entered MH in 1946 with his sister **Marie**. He was always one

of the most popular fellows on campus and long known as the boyfriend of **Bennie Christman** with whom he had a long married life. They had one daughter, **Sonja**, and a granddaughter, **Paula**. They lived most of their married life in Greensboro where Tony supported the family as a policeman and later in other vocations. They always remained active in the Christian faith they adopted at MH. And they both served the Mills Home Alumni when Bennie was the Alumni President and Tony served on the Alumni Council. The Homecoming they spearheaded in 1992 was one of the most spectacular and popular ever. Friends wishing to send condolences, may send them to **Sonya Phillips Morris**, c/o Hanes Lineberry Funeral Home, 6000 W. Gate City Blvd. Greensboro, NC 27407.

I'm very sad to report also that **Reverend J. Parker McLendon** died on June 3. Rev. McLendon served MH as superintendent from 1970-1976. He served the youngsters well and was much loved. He left for awhile to serve as the first Executive Director of the North Carolina Child Care Association, but he returned to MH and served two more years.

Rev. McLendon was highly educated having earned degrees from three major universities. Before working at MH, his early career was as an ordained minister in various churches in Florida and North Carolina. He participated greatly in many organizations and community endeavors everywhere he went. He was a very conscientious person and left a high bar for performance for anyone following him. Parker spent his life in service to God. He cherished his family and was always there for whoever needed him—the "calm anchor in every storm."

He was preceded in death by his daughter **Novella Tyler** and his wife **Frances**. He is survived by his daughters **Martha and Sheryl**, two

granddaughters and five great grandchildren. Friends can send condolences to **Martha Hutchens** at 4700 Pemberton Dr., Raleigh, NC 27609 and to **Sheryl Mohn**, 16263 Hwy. 16 North, Millers Creek, NC, 29651.

We are sorry to inform you also that **Betty Gurley Stubbins** passed away on August 2. She entered MH in 1941 with her siblings **Pearl, Dot and Glen**. She graduated from Mills Home High School in 1946. Her high school training had business subjects which prepared her well for the business career in her adult life. Her field of endeavor was being one of three who ran the Greensboro Mutual Insurance Agency, and she was recognized in 1976 as Woman of the Year in Insurance. She spent most of her adult life in Greensboro where she touched countless lives with warmth and kindness, leaving behind cherished memories that will last forever. She lived an active Christian life in the Lutheran Church.

Betty is predeceased by her husbands, **Karl N. Bittinger** and **Kermit F. Stubbins**, a stepdaughter, and her siblings, **Pearl, Dot and Glenn**. She is survived by her daughter **Joanna McCandless**, her grandson **Nick McCandless**, her great grandchild **Max** and several other grand and great grandchildren. A celebration of her life was held on August 16 at the First Lutheran Church in Greensboro.

Please send any corrections or additions of addresses for **C & C** to **Flora Hicks Patton** at florapatton06@gmail.com or 704-795-0017. To discuss use of the Columbarium, contact **Sharon DeHart Stiles** at 704-685-2443 or sharondstiles@yahoo.com.



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



Family brings in birth mother's twins
The birth mother of the "C" family's children asked if they would also parent her twin boys. This kept the siblings together.



Church treats Stegall men to a day out
The men from Stegall Home spent the day with friends from Lee Park Baptist at Schiele Nature Museum & Planetarium.



BCH shares expertise at recent summit
Staff were at the Youth Resilience Summit, hosted by Youth of NC, to discuss trauma-informed support for children in care.



Food Lion Feeds makes contribution
Food Lion's charity foundation made a \$2,200 gift to provide food to those served by Baptist Children's Homes.



Young people outreach to aging adults
Youth from CampBAM 2025, an inter-generational outreach, served aging neighbors still recovering from disaster.



Hispanic WMU members serve at BCH
Volunteers from the Hispanic WMU of North Carolina served at both Kennedy Home and Laura's Homes in October.



Adoption banquet season kicks off
The new season of Christian Adoption Services banquets has begun. The next is Nov. 6 at Englewood Baptist, Rocky Mount.



Church gives gift cards to Odum
Home Ladies from Rieglewood Baptist brought \$2,000 in gift cards as part of the church's Food Roundup efforts.



FBC Oak Island travels to BCH cottages
Each year, friends from First Baptist Oak Island travel to BCH's cottages to share treats with the children in care.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Check out our Events Calendar for opportunities to serve and registration information. Visit bchfamily.org/events

NOVEMBER

6: CAS Banquet - Rocky Mount Area.
Englewood Baptist, Rocky Mount
22: Thanksgiving Turkey in the Hole
Cameron Boys Camp, Cameron

WEEK OF PRAYER for the ANNUAL OFFERING

November 9-16, 2025



Resources to help your church collect its best offering are at bchoffering.org

Find your Spot.

Opportunities for you and your church to volunteer are available throughout the year at Baptist Children's Homes locations across the state!

Let us help you find your spot!
Visit bchfamily.org/volunteer or scan the QR code.



How can we help you? Contact 1.800.476.3669 or bchfamily.org/referral >>>

For each person's specific need, Baptist Children's Homes offers a unique ministry that is prepared to help. Reach out today.



every CHILD foster & adoption ministry

We equip your church to be a part of foster care & adoption so that every child receives the caring home he or she deserves.

Get connected at every-child.org



TURN YOUR CALLING INTO A CAREER



Statewide positions for serving children, families and special needs adults

BCHCAREERS.ORG

Giving your vehicle puts the ministry in



Your donated vehicle helps with school, church activities, student drivers, doctor visits, family care mothers and more.

Contact Mike Briles at
336.474.1260 | mbriles@bchfamily.org



#3641

Oldest alum at Homecoming recounts life at KH— Alumni encouraged to pray for each other

By James Clayton Pate, (910) 358-0992, 3894 Hwy 41 West, Trenton NC 28585

I am **James Clayton Pate**. I was at Kennedy Home (KH) from 1958-1972. **John Thompson** served at KH from 1972-1977 as choir director and for the past ten years he has written the KH Alumni Column each issue for *Charity & Children*. He loves the alumni and faithfully served as our columnist and we are deeply grateful for his service. He has given up his pen and I am picking it up. With everyone's help, I will try to keep the ball in play. I'll need everyone to send stories to me about their time at KH or what has been going on in your lives or prayer needs. I will use what I can for the column. My wife **Joyce** says I love to talk and will do well as the new columnist. Joyce and I have been married for 32 years. She is most definitely my soul mate.

I will miss the beach trip this year, so I am counting on those attending to share with me all the happy events about the weekend. For those of you who could not make the Bike, Car, & Truck Show at Homecoming this year, it was the best one yet. We had 22 cars, trucks, and bikes. Many enjoyed the picnic and food. We made new friends and raised \$1,000 for the cause. I loved looking at all the beautiful bikes, cars, and trucks that people spend so much time to restore to make them outstanding rides.

Donald Ray was saved at KH as a child. He told me a man was digging a ditch across the cow pasture behind the Bunker Cottage with a digging machine. He recalls he could hardly wait to get home from school to watch. The man let him get in the machine while he was working. Donald Ray was invited to visit the man's home to visit his children and his wife. The man told him about Jesus and how he could be saved and know him personally. It changed his life forever. If you want someone to teach Sunday school lessons you can call Donald Ray. If you ever need some help,

call on him. He is a good servant of the Lord.

David Bradley, a 1975 North Lenior high school graduate, drove up with his wife Donna from North Myrtle Beach on the Friday before the 50th class reunion for the Class of 1974. The Saturday night reunion was held at the country club in Kinston. While visiting, they stayed with **Gary and Debbie Caulder** in Little Baltimore. They attended the class reunion together. The couples are great dancers—I guess they did the two-step all night. But David may have danced too much since he had a heart attack on August 5 and he has not fully recovered. Everyone, let's keep him and his family in our prayers!

Russell Worthan was at KH from 1972-1975 and his wife **Lorrie** were attended the reunion as well.

Joyce Connie was at KH until 1972. Joyce talked with **Ed Riggs** recently. Ed was the oldest alumni at Homecoming. He is 89 years young! Ed's daughter traveled with him from Tampa Bay, Florida. It had been five years since his last visit. Brothers **Billy** (nine years old) and Ed (seven years old) came to live at KH in October 1945. They lived in Hardee Cottage with **Ada Mosley** as their houseparent. During their high school years, the boys lived in Canady Cottage with **Sadie Parker** as the houseparent. Billy graduated high school in 1953 and joined the United States Navy. Later he got married and he and his wife had two children and four grandchildren. Billy passed away in 2005. Ed graduated from high school in 1954 and then went to Mars Hill College where he met **Peggy Malley** who was from Mills Home in Thomasville. Peggy was at Mills Home from 1942 until 1954. Ed and Peggy married in 1958 had two children, three grand-children, and three great-grandchildren. Peggy worked as a nurse at Tampa General Hospital, serving the communities health needs. Peggy

passed in 2015. Ed is retired after working as a tax collector for many years. He said he was looking forward to coming back to visit again.

Christmas is coming and **Debbie Daniels** has a great Christmas gift—the *Kennedy Home Alumni Cookbook*. The price of the cookbooks are \$15 or \$20 to have them shipped to your home. As of now there have been 150 cookbooks sold. Recipes are from many of our Alumni. Many of the recipes are meals we grew up on at KH. While living at KH, we never went to bed hungry. There were 130 children at the home when I was there that were fed three meals each day and a snack. The Lord blessed and we were fed daily! Most snacks were hand-made by our cooks. We were often showed how to cook. It was something we could take with us throughout our life. Please call Debbie at 252-620-6757. Get your cookbook(s) ordered now! It is a great Christmas gift for family and friends.

Jesus Christ our Lord was born 2,025 years ago in December. I was told this in 1958 by **Mrs. Janie** at the CCB Cottage my first Christmas at KH. I was six years old. The Lord blessed me with a new houseparent and seventeen brothers.

I am looking forward to meeting with some of my brothers and sisters from KH at Kings Restaurant in Kinston on December 6 at noon until 3:00 p.m. We will be eating from the buffet. The cost is \$15.95 a person. There are lots of meats, vegetables and desserts from which to choose. Alumni are encouraged to bring a gift if you wish to exchange gifts with the suggested value of \$15-\$20 per gift. Men should bring a man's gift and women bring a woman's gift. All who plan to attend need to go to the KH Facebook page and let our alumni president, **Larry**, know so that he can get a proper head count. Please come even if you don't have a gift or money for the cost of lunch, your meal will be cov-

ered (just don't bring a bus load with you).

We will have a short business meeting after we enjoy our lunch, Christmas games, and gift exchange. We will have a time of prayer before our meal and after the meeting.

We have several prayer requests. Please keep **Ed Pait** in your prayers (eyes), along with **Don Pate** (eyes), **Clayton Pate** (eyes & knees), **David Bradley** (heart attack), and **David Pridgen** (in hospital weak from chemo and can't stand or walk yet).

Also, pray for **Janet Pate Simpson** (grieving the loss of her son) **Kenneth Simpson**, and **Donald Ray Wortherington** (loss of his sister-in-law).

Pray for the family of the late **Sam Smith** and his Sunday school class at Bethlehem Baptist Church at Halfmoon. Sam taught **Donald Ray** along with many others and did an excellent job for our Lord and Saviour. Sam's life was well lived and a soul now blessed. We will miss brother Sam—a friend to all.

The KH toy run is slated for the first Saturday after Thanksgiving at the Newbern Church. Registration is at 10:00. Kickstands go up at 11:00 to deliver toys and gifts to KH. Please pray for their safety.

ADVERSITY is a state of hardship, misfortune, or difficult circumstance. Adversity is a very powerful word in our vocabulary that is life changing.

Where do we turn when we experience a setback, sickness, loneliness, financial loss, fear, heartbreak, or loss of a loved one? God is the Answer. In times of adversity, God draws us to Him. He cares and loves each one of us.

I look forward to hearing from you soon! — Clayton



James Clayton Pate was a child in care at Kennedy Home from 1958 to 1972. He and his wife Joyce live in Comfort, NC.

The Almighty provides. He is faithful.

By Jim Edminson, Editor

The monastery, nestled in a mountain forest, is located at the small village of Armenteira. Camino pilgrims make their way there via a winding, often arduous, trek along the “Variante Espiritual.” The trail near the end of the day’s journey proved particularly difficult, primarily because Kathy and I walked it with damaged feet and discouraged spirits. The first seven miles of the day’s walk, as usual, passed in awe of our surroundings. As we approached the last three miles of the 16-mile day, however, we wondered if this would be the day that we could not reach our destination.

Our oldest grand, Stuart, tackled his own excursion this summer attending Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico. He had trained for months carrying a backpack that looked equivalent to his body size. The program is designed to push scouts beyond their comfort zones. Their multi-day “high-adventure treks through mountain terrain” are challenging. Stuart is happy retelling of the journey and his mountain top experiences, and yet he is honest about the very real challenges he faced—tired body from long days and walking steep inclines, weather extremes, and the daily repetition of the trail.

Mountain top experiences, you will agree, are phenomenal and monumental. We retell those exciting tales, reliving the glory of those moments. But to reach the mountain top, we have to climb the mountain. In most instances, I would recount these images as metaphors or analogies to the struggles of daily life in the real-world experiences of Jesus followers, and they hold true in our Camino story. The arrival at the monastery necessitated the climb up the mountain—if we wanted the mountain top experience, we would have to tackle the path.

That morning, Stuart texted: “Just a piece of trail advice: (I don’t know if y’all have already been doing this but) at Philmont, I would save a part of breakfast to eat on the trail and that

was a great boost. Maybe get some snackage for the trail!” When we came to yet another long uphill path, we paused. We found a flat slab of rock and ate a make-shift picnic of saved bread and bananas. Energized, we continued upward following the Camino signs to what we hoped would bring us to Armenteira.

The good feelings were short-lived and we began to feel like the Israelites walking through the desert, feeling God’s provision in the morning and lapsing into complaints in the afternoon. The last mile involved climbing a narrow dry creek bed filled with boulders and stones, first up and then down. Busted toes throbbed. Blistered feet seared. Backpacks pressed down. I reached back to give Kathy a hand and saw her exhaustion. The mountain top was only a mile away, but could our bodies endure?

Sheer determination can accomplish incredible things but at times like those on the Camino, we were reminded that it is God’s providence that brings the victory. Although weary from their 40 years of wandering, the Israelites did reach the Promised Land. Paul, chained to the prison walls, did not allow his circumstances to deter him from sharing the gospel and caring for the churches he had planted. The Almighty provides. He is faithful.

Moving past the boulder path, I pulled out my phone and again read aloud Psalm 103 as we walked: “Praise the Lord, my soul; all my inmost being, praise His holy name. Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all His benefits...”

At the monastery, we found that our room involved climbing—two flights of narrow



stairs. Then through the window, we looked at where we had traveled. Determination? Yes, but more so, God’s provision! The view from the mountaintop sprawled as far as we could see. I repeated the words of David once more, and we rejoiced!

We had two days of respite, worshiping with the inhabitants in the twelfth century church, taking simple meals with fellow travelers, and watching the rain as the heavens opened and washed away the weariness. Peace reigned. The day came to leave on our sore feet and continue the last two days of our journey.

Marianne, a traveler on her tenth Camino walk, watched us prepare to leave. We felt her compassion for our plight—our spiritual determination and also our physical pain. Speaking from experience, she said, “Remember this: Everyone you see along the way—first timers and seasoned pilgrims, everyone—we all have hurt feet. You are not weak, and you are not traveling the wrong way. It is part of the Camino.”

Back home now, Kathy and I repeat Marianne’s words to each other. We remind ourselves “...how we are formed” and remember “that we are dust.” We face obstacles and difficult paths and notice others who are struggling with life’s challenges: “We all have hurt feet.” And then, we praise our God who does not leave us alone ever. And we keep walking. You too, please. Keep walking. And praising. The Almighty provides. He is faithful.

SHARE

The Story!

3 WAYS A BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOMES (BCH) SPEAKER CAN SHARE AT YOUR CHURCH:

1

FULL SERMON
20-25 mins

A speaker will prepare a message for your worship service to edify the congregation, provide a BCH missions update, and share stories of lives that have been changed through your support.

2

MISSION MOMENT
2-5 mins

A speaker will share a BCH update and talk briefly how your missions dollars are impacting God's kingdom. The speaker can also set up a small display table to greet people.

3

SMALL GROUP/
SUNDAY SCHOOL

A speaker will share a BCH mission update and stories of lives changed. Your group will hear ways to pray, volunteer and support the ministry as a group or as a church.

TO INVITE A SPEAKER, GO TO [BCHFAMILY.ORG/](https://bchfamily.org/) SPEAKER OR SCAN THE CODE. CALL 336-474-1218.