

Charity & Children

The historic publication of Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina, first to tell the story for 135 years.

     @bchfamily

April 2022

Issue 4

Volume 135

Prevent abuse

Begin by recognizing the signs of abuse

By Jim Edminson, Editor

Hidden in the shadows, a child is trapped in a world of abuse. What she believes is normal terrifies her. Escape routes are blocked. The emotional walls she builds grow taller and thicken in time. It is a trauma she will live with the rest of her life.

April is Child Abuse Awareness Month. Acknowledging the physical, sexual, and emotional abuse children endure is essential in eradicating it. During the month, people are encouraged to increase awareness in their communities and recognize the importance of working together to prevent child abuse and neglect.

Recognizing the signs of abuse is the starting place. Following these signs can assist in determining whether a child needs help: sudden change in behavior,

unattended physical or medical problems, difficulty in concentrating, skittish and overly compliant mannerisms, avoidance of home and showing reluctance to be around certain people, and/or disclosure of maltreatment. Types of abuse are usually discovered in combinations. In fact, Child Welfare Information Gateway cites: "A physically abused child, for example, is often emotionally abused as well, and a sexually abused child also may be neglected."

If you witness a child being harmed or see evidence of abuse, make a report to your state's child protective services or local law enforcement. Remember that child abuse often repeats itself generation to generation. What you do today, can help save children far into the future.



Be renewed, celebrate hope this Eastertide!

By Michael C. Blackwell, President/CEO (Chief Encouragement Officer)

When I was pastor in the small, but exquisitely beautiful town of Carthage, North Carolina, one of my laymen cautioned me not to try and explain the resurrection, but to celebrate it.

He said that Easter for him brought hope in the trying times of life and hope for eternity. He asserted that you can't explain hope, either, but that word hops, skips and jumps across the pages of the New Testament like a rock being thrown across the top of a lake to see how many skims and skips it makes.

In the past few years, my title has evolved. I am the president and chief executive officer, but since the advent of the pandemic, that "CEO" has changed to become "Chief Encouragement Officer."

A song from "South Pacific" says, "I'm stuck like a dope with this thing called Hope, and I can't get it out of my mind."

Easter is about **hope** in Christ:

H—for happiness. We all want to be happy, but few of us are. Look for God's surprises in the most unusual ways. Listen for a child's laughter or the sounds of the birds at springtime. Open your eyes and see the one who in a tragedy is helping to relieve the pain of another. Celebrate the joy of the happy, unexpected moment that brings a chuckle or full belly-roll laughter. Happiness is all around you.

O—for opportunity. Turn those obstacles into opportunities. Never give up on your dreams. Too many people go to their graves with their

music still inside them, with their poetry yet to be written. Don't let that happen to you. When opportunity knocks, don't knock the opportunity. Grab the brass ring. Hear your music. Play your music before the song is over.

P—for possibilities. Problems are possibilities in disguise. See the best in yourself. Don't fear your own greatness. Claim it. Live it. Become it.

E—for Eternal. That's Easter in a nutshell. Eternal life in Christ. Can't explain it? You don't have to. Just accept it, proclaim it, and celebrate it.

This is the third Easter to pass during a pandemic and throughout these trying times, I've been constantly reminded of the strength and resilience people demonstrated during this upside-down time. I'm so proud of you.

As we celebrate the **hope** of Easter, let me encourage you to continue to stay strong, continue to stand tall, continue to square your shoulders, and continue to be who God made you to be.

Don't hide your light under a basket. Let your light shine. Be a beacon of hope.

Hope is what you hold on to when the going gets tough.

Hope for a better way.

Hope for a better tomorrow.

Hope for a better you.

And know that God's hand is upon you. God's Holy Spirit is in you so that you may know that what you are doing is going to make a difference, however small it may seem to feel.

Let your light shine before others, the Bible says, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father, which is in heaven.

May your spirit feel renewal and hope this season of Eastertide. You don't have to explain it. **Just celebrate it!**

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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Ribbon cutting celebrates Care Village in Kinston

By Carol Layton, NCBAM Director of Communications and Administration

A long-held vision of North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry (NCBAM) became a reality on March 1, 2022 when the NCBAM Care Village in Kinston officially opened. NCBAM and its Care Village are administered by Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina (BCH).

BCH President/CEO, Dr. Michael C. Blackwell founded NCBAM in 2009 and celebrates its ever-expanding outreaches: "It's exciting to see NCBAM bringing geriatric management services to seniors in Kinston and Lenoir County—allowing them to age in place with Christ-centered support."

Housed in the annex of the Kennedy Home Church, the Village serves seniors (65+) living within 50 miles of Kinston. Care Village members receive preliminary assessments and a Plan of Care to address short-term and long-term goals. Quarterly assessments review members' needs for housekeeping, meals, durable medical equipment, home safety, and maintenance, as well as spiritual growth and support.

NCBAM Director, Dr. Sandy Gregory, says, "Our geriatric care model was first developed to serve NCBAM's Servant Care Participants (Baptist ministers 65+). We're thrilled to begin offering this model at the Care Village."

The renovated annex of the Kennedy Memorial Home Baptist Church serves as an attractive and multi-purposed gathering place for Village members. The space includes administrative offices, a wellness room, a game room, a dedicated prayer room, as well as meeting rooms for social gatherings and workshops.

Charity Johnson, Care Village Coordinator, works with local pastors, churches, support team volunteers, senior centers, and other community partners to help members "age in place" in their own homes. "We match the spiritual gifts of volunteers with the needs of Care Village members to offer services such as friendly phone calls, notes of encouragement, handyman services, transportation assistance, and meal, grocery, and medication delivery."



Two ambassadors from the Kinston-Lenoir County Chamber of Commerce hold the ribbon being cut by Dr. Sandy Gregory (NCBAM Director), Keith Henry (COO, Baptist Children's Homes of NC), and Charity Johnson (Care Village Coordinator). To Gregory's right are Kinston's Mayor, the Honorable Don Hardy, and Commissioner Linda Rouse Sutton (Lenoir County Board Chair). Village members, community representatives, and local social workers joined the celebration in front of a crowd of 100 friends attending the event.

Kinston and Lenoir County community groups and social service agencies see the value of the Care Village and are eager to partner with the ministry. Nursing students from Lenoir County Community College will assist with developing care plans for members.

The Kinston Community Health Center hopes to provide a Remote Area Medical (RAM) Clinic at the Village to offer dental, medical, and optometry services for seniors. RAM clinics require a lot of space and Kennedy Home will assist with lodging

facilities for volunteers while local churches will help with food services. The Kinston Clinic Pharmacy is also planning a clinic at the Village for COVID and flu vaccinations.



NCBAM staff and family members completed many of the renovations of the Care Village facilities at Kennedy Home. Pictured are (l-r) Robert Leonard, Renee Gregory, Yvette Smith, and NCBAM Director Dr. Sandy Gregory.

At the close of the opening event, Keith Henry (BCH's COO) remarked, "What an opportunity for BCH to have NCBAM and the Village concept here on BCH's Kennedy Home campus. This is the first of its kind anywhere in North Carolina. We're going to have to watch out because other people will steal this idea – and we hope they do! This is an awesome idea that will serve aging adults well in Kinston and Lenoir County."

Proceeds for this outdoor meal, silent auction and live music event support Mills Home children

SAT, APRIL 30
6:00 - 8:00 PM
MILLS HOME IN THOMASVILLE

LIVE MUSIC FROM GUILFORD AND CAROLINE & COMPANY

Come at 4pm for campus tours & Fancy Finds shopping. Tickets and info at bchfamily.org/hope-harvest

Prayers and gifts bring hope to God's treasures

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

Coffee in hand, I listen to the morning news—news of war and trauma. It is hard to listen and to see the images. Like you, my heart breaks. And I do the things I know to do, pray and give.

Each day, I am greeted by a very different world, a world of freedom and hope. I am reminded that this world in which I live did not come without sacrifice, staunch commitment, pain, and loss. I am so grateful for those who have given so much and who are giving so much! And so, I do the things I know to do, pray and give.

I leave my house to go to the office. It is a beautiful Wednesday morning. Yesterday was cold and dreary but today is a new day! The sun is shining and it is hopeful that the temperature may hit 60 degrees. The birds are singing (one quite loudly), proclaiming it is Spring! I walk out my back door and I'm greeted by yellow daffodils. These harbingers of spring break through the ground with a wonderful fragrance and a burst of color reassuring me that Winter has passed.

Last weekend while visiting the beach, yard sale signs were everywhere, hinting Spring is here. I am amazed at the treasures avid yard sale scavengers find. They see what things can become if cleaned, polished, or given extra care. My sister-in-law Teresa is one of those people. She turns broken pieces of pottery or blemished pieces of furniture into beautiful treasures. She sees past what something looks like to see what it can become.

Close your eyes and imagine yourself at one of these yard sales. Men and women grabbing for things, trying to find a deal, a treasure. "This isn't worth two dollars," a man asserts, "I'll give you a buck."

"Where is the piano you listed for sale?" asks another lady. She finds the old rundown piano tucked away in the garage. She rubs her fingers over the keys. Taking a tissue, she wipes away the dust and dirt. The three women operating the yard sale look at each other with excitement. Maybe this dear lady will take this piece of junk off their hands.

"How much do you want for the piano?" she asks. "Fifty dollars if you pick it up today," the three women say in unison.

She sits at the piano and plays "What a Friend We Have In Jesus." She plays a message of love and grace. The people at the yard sale begin to gather around. They are amazed at the wonderful sound.

The hearts of the women operating the

yard sale soften as she plays. They offer the piano to her for free. It is a treasure in the lady's hands.

Like the piano, we become treasures in God's hands. At Baptist Children's Homes (BCH), this is the message we share with those who come to us hurt and broken, worn down by the trauma they have experienced.

They are like the piano. They have not been given the care they needed. We wipe the dirt and dust from their lives and we show them they are valuable and full of potential. We tell them, "God created you wonderful. God created you awesome. God created you magnificent. You are truly special treasures."

Patricia is one of those special treasures. She came to us thinking she had no value. She came to us broken by severe abuse and neglect. But then something incredible happened in her life. Miss Judy, her houseparent, told her she was a special treasure to God. She asked Jesus into her heart. Through the love and care she received at BCH, Patricia has become a beautiful, Christian young woman, graduating college and getting married. Caring for and bringing joy to those around her is her passion.

What a joy to watch those we serve have the freedom to blossom and grow! But we are not alone in making a difference in the lives of those we serve. You are here with us, encouraging, doing that which we know to do—pray and give.

In May, you will have an opportunity to go as well. Plan now to go to one of our campuses for a one-day mission opportunity. Check out our "Friends of Children" work day information on page seven or at bchfamily.org/friends-of-children.

Thank you for seeing Patricia and the many others we care for each day as treasures—God's treasures.

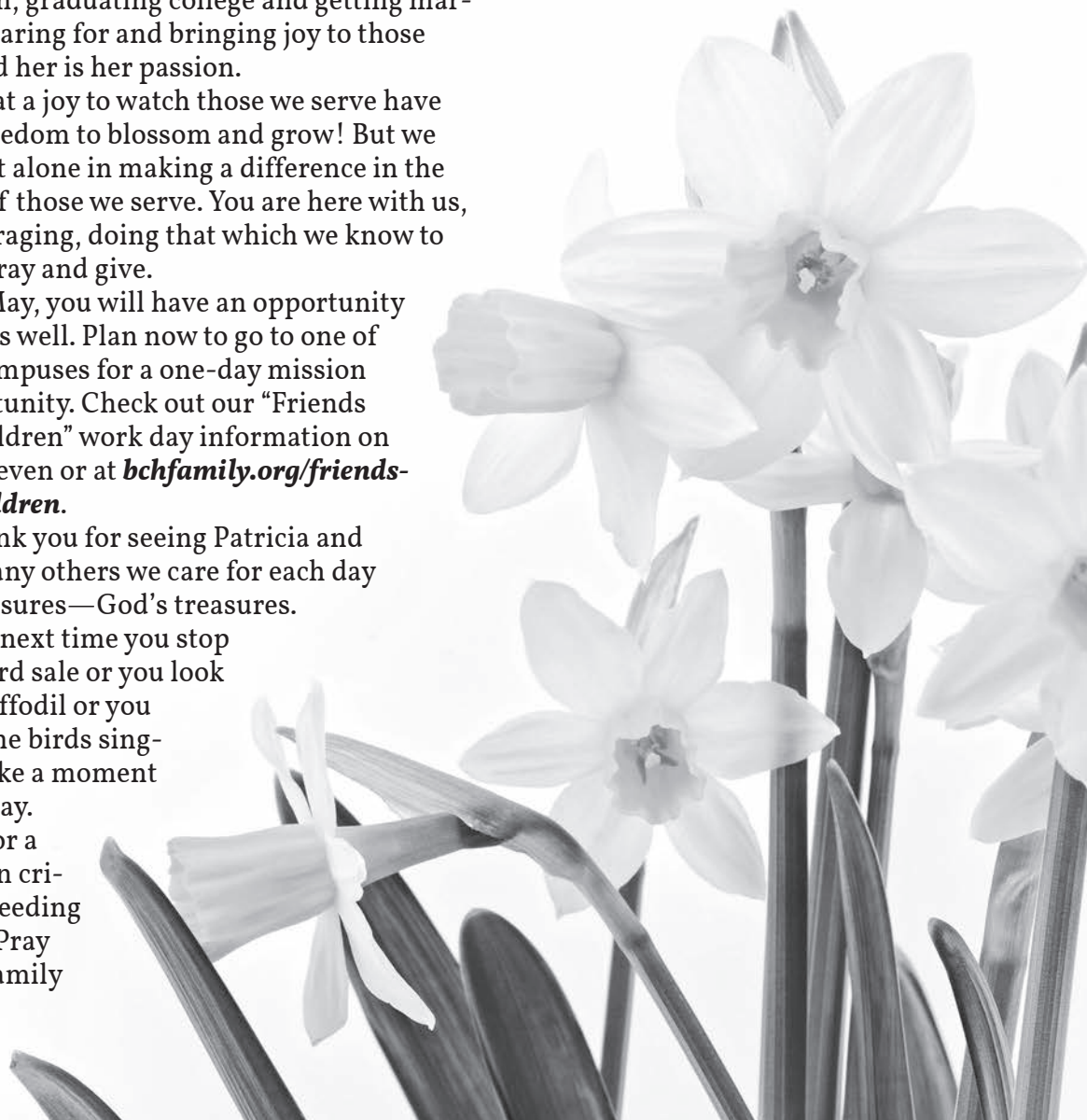
The next time you stop at a yard sale or you look at a daffodil or you hear the birds singing, take a moment and pray. Pray for a child in crisis—needing hope. Pray for a family falling

apart—needing hope. Pray for a man or woman who just lost custody of their children due to drug abuse—needing hope. Pray for a young woman sitting in an abortion clinic—needing hope. Pray for a two-year-old left in a trash can in Guatemala—needing hope. Pray for a world at war—needing hope.

Let's all do what we know to do: pray, give, and for some, go. I want to give a shout out to our dear friends with Baptists on Mission. Please pray for them as they go.

Thank you for being a difference-maker in the lives of those we serve. Think of someone who has been a difference-maker in your life. Don't waste an opportunity to tell them they are a treasure. And thank God for the immense treasure He has been in your life.

Thank you for sharing the Easter story with those we serve 365 days a year. Last Easter, three of our beautiful children asked Jesus into their hearts. In the hands of Jesus, they are all treasures. For more information, call me or visit our website at www.bchfamily.org.



691 souls

We celebrate 691 decisions for Christ made in the past five years!

When you make an Easter gift, your support helps provide a safe home, daily provisions, and the loving care of cottage parents who show children Christ's unconditional love.

In these challenging days, your support is needed more than ever. Please remember the children.



Use my Easter gift to bring a child hope!

☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$ _____ Any size gift!

To make a gift by check: Print your information below and mail this form with your check.

Name _____ Email _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

You can make your gift by credit card at www.bchfamily.org/givenow or phone Faith Frazier at 336-474-1312.

☐ Yes, I would like to receive email updates. ☐ Contact me with information on how to prepare a Christian Will.

☐ I have included Baptist Children's Homes in my estate.

New outreach help seniors improve life while aging in place

By **Charity Johnson**, NCBAM Care Village Coordinator

When I began my position as North Carolina Baptist Aging (NCBAM) Care Village coordinator in February 2020, I was excited to see how God would use this new outreach, not knowing that a month later our country would be hit with a pandemic that is still affecting us all today. Isaiah 41:10 came to my mind when I questioned how NCBAM could provide geriatric management services in the midst of shut-downs and quarantines.



Johnson

God comforted me: “So, do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.” God will do it through NCBAM. He will strengthen us, help us, and uphold us with His righteous right hand. So, I had to just give all my worries to him. It wasn’t me who would carry out this task, anyway. He had already prepared the path to lead us to where we are today.

The pandemic slowed down the construction of the Care Village building because contractors were on hold and then they were booked up. Even though I would have loved all the projects at the Care Village to have gone smoothly, I quickly learned that God was in control, working out every need, providing volunteers, and bringing the amazing NCBAM team together to provide this new Baptist Children’s Homes’

(BCH) outreach from Kennedy Home in Kinston.

The “shut down” made me stop and smell the roses along the journey God had planned for me. Most of us are so busy; lives are non-stop and every minute is planned. But God had a way of slowing down NCBAM’s plans. For me, I had to focus completely on Him to carry out what He had planned over the next two years of remodeling, ministering, planning, and unfolding his vision for aging adults in this eastern North Carolina community.

God’s timing allowed me as coordinator to recruit and make connections with Care Village members during a very trying time. I would have been too busy if I had been focused on remodeling. God gave me the opportunity to provide new Village members with hand-written notes, phone calls, emails, and food deliveries through porch drop-offs. I stayed connected and encouraged



Charity Johnson, Care Village coordinator, center back row, poses with Care Village members and volunteers for a photo shoot held prior to the ribbon-cutting on March 1.



NCBAM’s director, Dr. Sandy Gregory, led a team of staff and volunteers in renovating the annex of the Kennedy Home church to serve as the Care Village office.

each member through the pandemic and the unknown of our daily lives. God assigning the tasks meant relationships with people were the priority.

It was beautiful to see this vision become a reality on March 1, when the community came together to cut the ribbon and celebrate the official opening of the Care Village.

NCBAM’s founder and BCH president/CEO Michael C. Blackwell echoed the progress being made: “The march goes on as NCBAM continues to expand its services to North Carolina’s seniors. The geriatric management services offered by the Care Village allow members to age in place with support provided by NCBAM, community volunteers, and other Village members.”

I love eastern North Carolina and look forward to working with church and community volunteers to make the lives of seniors better as they age in place in their own homes and have the beautiful

spaces created at Kennedy Home to meet together and be encouraged. The NCBAM Care Village is administered from the Kennedy Home campus in Kinston and serves individuals 65+ within a 50-mile radius. Housed in the church’s annex, the space includes a wellness room, a game room, a dedicated prayer room, as well as meeting rooms for social gatherings and workshops. The Care Village is a tool that fosters independence, wellness, engagement, and will be used to share the Gospel and the love of Jesus Christ.

We help seniors age in place safely at home. Care Village members participate in assessments and receive individualized plans of care. Needs are met through community and church resources. The village concept of helping one another and sharing resources is not new. Early Christian churches banded together to support each other. The New Testament uses the Greek word “koinonia”, meaning



Charity Johnson, second from right, with Village members/volunteers on an excursion getting to know one another and planning activities for other members.

fellowship, and living in community.

NCBAM director Sandy Gregory reminds us often that we are meeting a great



The annual northeast Aging Well Conference was held March 17 at the newly refurbished “gathering room” of the Care Village. Jim Edminson, editor of *Charity & Children* and assistant to BCH President/CEO Michael C. Blackwell, spoke on aging well spiritually. (Aging Well Conferences will be held soon in West Jefferson on April 7 and in Murphy on May 10. Register at ncbam.org/events.

need: “What senior adults want most is independence. Seniors want to remain at home as long as possible. The mission of NCBAM encompasses that goal. Our programs and services increase safety and provide access to services so that aging in place is possible. Remaining in one’s own home yields cost savings and improves quality of life and physical health.”

Your help is needed. Join the groundbreaking work of the Care Village!

Consider volunteering. The spiritual gifts of volunteers are matched with the needs of Care Village members. Individuals, church or community groups meet important needs in their communities. Needs include: friendly phone calls; notes of encouragement; handyman services;

transportation assistance; meal, grocery, and medication delivery.

Please pray that God would prosper the work of the NCBAM Care Village and that He would receive glory as lives are changed and needs are met.

Your financial gift will help as we look to expand our services. Designate your tax-deductible gift to the Care Village at ncbam.org/get-involved.

Charity Johnson, Care Village Coordinator, works with pastors, churches, support team volunteers, senior centers, and other community partners to help Care Village members “age in place” in their own homes. Contact Charity by emailing her at cnjohnson@bchfamily.org or call her at 252-933-0298 if you need help maintaining your independence in your own home or need more information.

Get Involved!

Events and opportunities for you and your church group to see our ministries firsthand!

North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry (NCBAM) Aging Well Conferences
April 7 - West Central, May 10 - Far West

Sessions focusing on aging well along with music & lunch. Register at ncbam.org/events

Christian Adoption Services (CAS) Golf Tourney
April 8 | Belmont Lake Golf in Belmont

Sign up & play! Funds support adoption services. Register at christianadopt.org/events

CAS Apex Benefit Banquet
April 28 | Apex Baptist Church in Apex

Dinner and inspirational testimonies from adoptive families benefiting from our adoption services. Register at christianadopt.org/events

Hope Harvest Family Event & Fundraiser
April 30 | Mills Home in Thomasville

BBQ meal under the trees. Live music by Guilford and Caroline & Company. Kids activities. Silent auction. Tickets at bchfamily.org/hope-harvest

NCBAM: AAIM State Leadership Conference
May 3 | Bayleaf Baptist in Raleigh

Preventing identity theft and protecting your home and assets. Register at ncbam.org/events

Ride to Clyde Motorcycle Charity Ride
May 5-8 | Ft. Caswell to Broyhill Home in Clyde

Ride the state, visit BCH’s ministries, and share the love of Jesus along the way. Partnering with NC Baptists. Register at ridetoclyde.com

Founders Day, Cameron Boys Camp | May 14
Register: 336.474.1209 or ddavis@bchfamily.org.

Tour campsites, hear testimonies from the boys, enjoy lunch and camp-style songs.

Friends of Children Saturday Mission Days
One-day projects for all ages. Register at bchfamily.org/friends-of-children

- April 9 - Cameron Boys Camp, Cameron
- May 7 - Odum Home, Pembroke
- May 14 - Kennedy Home, Kinston
- May 21 - Camp Duncan, Aberdeen



Help feed the boys and girls

When churches and friends unite for the Food Roundup, hundreds and hundreds of boys and girls living at Baptist Children's Homes are fed. Please participate in this year's Roundup and help fill hungry bellies.

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.)
- Healthy Snacks (Dried Fruit, Nuts, Raisins, Cranraisins, Trail Mix)
- Individual Cookie Packs
- Jello
- PopTarts
- Rice
- Instant Potatoes (scallop, au gratin, mashed, julienne)
- Muffin Mixes
- Bisquick Mix
- Kidney Beans
- Pickle Relish
- Cranberry Sauce
- Mac & Cheese
- Corn Meal

- Jiffy Mixes, Corn Muffin Mix, Hush Puppy Mix
- Peanut Butter
- Jelly, Jams, Preserves (Strawberry is the 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)

IMPORTANT NOTES:

Gift Cards are appreciated for buying perishables and items not received. (i.e. Wal-Mart, Sams Clubs, Food Lion, Lowes, Ingles, Piggly Wiggly).

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

IMPORTANT: Please check for expired dates on food— we cannot accept expired items.

Please help our volunteer truck drivers by packing your church's donations in small, sturdy boxes.

Pack like items together. Please do not pack chemicals with food.

Statewide pick-up points ready for collections

Call First

Delivery hours vary at each location. Call in advance to schedule your delivery please.

Alexander Association
Becky Parker
828-632-6546
Anson Association
Kim Glenn
704-694-2790
Ashe Association
Debbie Miller
336-846-5631
Atlantic Association
Rachel Dupree
252-447-4593
Avery Association
Bob Gorbett
828-733-6674
Beulah Association
Wendy Oliver
336-559-6117
Bladen Association
Kelly Self
910-862-3496
Blue Ridge Association
Sharon Blanton
828-559-0224

Brier Creek Association
Sherry Mesimer
336-468-8000
Brunswick Association
Elyse Brown/Jeff Gibby
910-754-7979
Brushy Mountain Assoc.
Gloria Kilby/Linda Holland
336-838-4407
Buncombe Association
Della Brindley
828-252-1864
Burnt Swamp Assoc.
Odum Home - Kathy Locklear
910-521-3433/910-318-3981
Cabarrus Association
Marvin Tyson
704-786-9171
Caldwell Association
Darlene Townsend/Dale Fisher
828-758-4081
Cape Fear Network of Baptist Churches
910-799-1160
Pine Valley BC
910-791-1949
Carolina Association
Paula James
828-693-4274
Catawba River Assoc.
Ashleigh Thompson
828-437-0137

Catawba Valley Assoc.
Woodlawn BC
Charity Travis
828-464-6921
Cheoah Association
New Hope BC, Robbinsville
Gerald & Nellie Phillips
828-479-8279
Chowan Association
Annie Weir
252-426-9621
Columbus Association
Teresa Powell
910-642-2155
Dan Valley Association
1. First Baptist, Reidsville
Gail King
336-932-0500
2. Grace Baptist, Madison
336-427-3494
3. Hamptons Hights, Eden
Pastor Nate Wood
336-623-3226
Dock Association
Participating churches mail gift cards to BCH
Eastern Association
Charity Baptist Men on Missions, Rose Hill
Sandra Winstead
910-289-2019
Elkin Association
Lisa Green
336-835-8433

Flat River Association
Myra Klein
919-693-5215
French Broad Association
Robin Jackson
828-689-2845
Graham Association
New Hope BC, Robbinsville
Gerald & Nellie Philips
828-479-8279
Greater Cleveland Assoc.
Katie Harris
704-482-3472
Greater Gaston Assoc.
Karen Weaver
704-867-7257
Green River Association
Teresa Sams
828-286-9278
Haywood Association
Broyhill Home - Linda Morgan
828-627-9254
Liberty Association
Mills Home
336-474-1200
Little River Association
Cameron Boys Camp
Sandy Snyder
910-245-5001
Macon Association
Gary Holland
828-524-3215

Metrolina Association
Angie Wolff
704-375-1197 ext. 101
Mitchell Association
Jennifer Beck
828-765-9412
Mount Zion Association
Sandy King
336-226-0249
Neuse Association
252-566-9478
Kennedy Home
252-522-0811
New River Association
Jeanette Palmero
910-347-3146
New South River Assoc.
Robert Ivey/Regina Hammonds
910-485-8791
North Roanoke Assoc.
Regina Balasoto
252-443-3883
Pee Dee Association
Janie Frye
910-895-5282
Piedmont Association
Rebecca Newlin
336-275-7651
Pilot Mountain Assoc.
Craig Clayton
336-830-8189 ext. 104
Polk Association
Inez Jackson
828-894-3787

Raleigh Association
Iris Woodard
919-231-3995
Randolph Association
Jill Murray/Jeff Joyce
336-625-4175
Robeson Association
Odum Home - Kathy Locklear
910-521-3433
910-318-3981
Rocky Face Association
Only Collecting Gift Cards
Rev. Brian Eades
828-612-2684
Rowan Association
Darcell Mangan/Jonas Perez
704-637-3407
Sandhills Association
Cameron Boys Camp
Sandy Snyder
910-245-5001
Sandy Creek Association
1. Hickory Mountain BC
919-742-3928
2. East Sanford Baptist Ch.
919-776-3241
3. Moons Chapel BC
919-742-4569
4. Cool Springs BC
919-776-4633
Sandy Run Association
Evelyn Lane
828-245-2613

South Fork Association
Faith Ingle
704-735-1642
South Mountain Assoc.
Mary Van Dyke
704-462-4472
South Roanoke Assoc.
Linda Franks
252-756-4332
South Yadkin Association
704-873-4372
Stanly-Montgomery Assoc.
Albermale Assoc. Office
Jennifer Snellings/Judy Hartsell - 704-982-1033
Stone Mountain Assoc.
Ken Wood
336-696-4210
Stony Fork Association
Roy Gryder
828-295-3410
Surry Association
Susan White
336-789-5701
Tar River Association
Louisburg Baptist Church
919-496-4195
Tennessee River Assoc.
FBC, Bryson City
Judy Hensley
828-488-2679
Three Forks Association
Jennifer Waldorf
828-264-4482

Transylvania Association
Nancy Kirkpatrick
828-877-3203
Triangle East Association
Johnston Comm. College
Carolyn Tharrington
919-934-3749
Truett Association
Duronda Hood
828-837-5401
Tuckaseeige Association
Gracella Morris
828-586-6011
Union Association
Bessie Benson
704-283-8383
United Association
(Drop at Metrolina Assoc.)
Angie Wolff
704-375-1197 Ext. 101
West Chowan Assoc.
Rebecca Adams
252-332-3235
Yadkin Association
Brenda Garner/Dennis Shaw
336-679-8731
Yancey Association
Joe Miller
828-682-2388
Yates Association
Teresa Dotson/Michael Bond
919-489-3396

Alum remembers prime Holstein cows – Boys move pastor's VW Beetle to church porch

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

Shirley Topping Maxwell is a name often seen on the Mills Home Orphanage Memories Facebook Page. She seems to enjoy commenting on the various photos that are posted by Harry Walls and others. Shirley came to MH in 1943 from Littleton, NC and she graduated in 1953. Siblings at MH with her were **Daniel and Horace**. Several campus activities drew Shirley's interest, and she was particularly well known for her delightful piano playing and singing in the choir. Work time on the campus was the most interesting to Shirley when she was assigned to work in one of the sewing rooms, the laundry or the Simmons Cottage tending to little boys. Her favorite workers on campus were her house parents at the Huffman Cottage, **Tom and Chris Marlowe**. After graduation, Shirley held several very interesting jobs. One was at a radio station where she worked in sales, served as bookkeeper, and wrote and delivered weather commercials. She did clerical work at Ciba Geigy, secretarial work in a legal office, and served as Executive Director of Seven Homes, a foster care/adoption agency her son **Ken** established.

Jimmy Rochelle is a name we see a lot, mainly because he is either beginning a new task on behalf of the Alumni Association or he is completing one. He stays busy, that is certain. Jimmy entered Mills Home from Durham in 1956 and graduated in 1967. In his busy campus life, Jimmy especially loved being in the church choir and the tour choir. His favorite work assignments were driving the school bus, serving as lifeguard, and working in the print shop. He was especially fond of Superintendent Sparrow because he treated the children fairly. He was also fond of **Horace "Joe" Reid** because of his kindly manner.

After graduation, Jimmy entered

the US Army service and served his country in Vietnam. While he was stationed in Alabama, he met and married his wife **Linda**. After his army duty, Jimmy returned to Durham and had a forty-three-year career in the printing trade. Both now retired, this couple is enjoying time with their two daughters, two grandsons, and one granddaughter. Jimmy especially liked homecoming of 2018 because of the highly successful Silent Auction and receiving the coveted annual "Oscar" award.

Donald Crafton entered Mills Home from Durham in 1963. Though he left MH in 1969, he continued his senior year in Thomasville living with the family of a high school friend. He and his wife **Mary Sue** (deceased 2015) remained in the general vicinity of Thomasville where they reared one daughter. From her, he now has one grandson and two granddaughters. He remained in the military for 22 years and then spent 29 years in car sales. Currently, he works for O'Reilly Auto.

Donald said he loved singing in the choir at MH and attending the boy scouts. He found **Mr. Franklin Bailey** to be an exceptional scout leader, describing him as "a man a person couldn't help but love." Donald gained a lot of knowledge and skills in his campus duties: campus maintenance, house duty, planting and harvesting, pitching hay, milking the cows, and cleaning the barn after milking. He remembers milking the last cow just before the herd was transferred to Kennedy Home. Incidentally, the Holstein cows were the first such herd in the state.

Donald also shared a little story about the time he was boxing with **Harry Walls** who was known to be an extremely skilled, well-trained athlete. Donald found himself repeatedly hitting the mat, time after time, he always got back up. After all the perseverance he could

muster, Donald got a good laugh when Harry finally just said, "Why don't you just stay down."

Janice Lewis Doherty came to Mills Home from Waynesville, NC in 1953 with siblings **Carolyn, Dale, and Noel**. She graduated in 1962. Her very active campus life and school life included playing on the basketball team, singing in the choir, working in the Girl's Auxiliary, and playing the saxophone along with all the schoolwork and duties on campus. She excelled at basketball and was awarded the coveted **Johnny Allen** award. She attended Gardner-Webb University when it was a junior college and attended High Point University where she majored in Sociology and minored in Psychology. Most of Janice's adult years have been spent in High Point but she worked with several organizations in several cities. For some of her earliest years, she worked in Durham County, at Kennedy Home when **Rev. Roger Williams** was there, and the counseling program at Samaritan Ministry in Winston. Other work over the years included time with social services in Davidson and Guilford Counties. Later she worked in two treatment facilities where she counseled people with drug and alcohol problems. Near the end of her career, she had the satisfaction of creating a plan for the resident treatment (alcoholism) facility in Winston-Salem called the Cornerstone Project.

Janice has two sons, **Damon and Ryan**. Damon and his wife **Eva** live in El Puerto de Santa Maria, Spain, an Atlantic Coastal port in southern Spain. They have two children, **Alicia and Vega Janice**. When she visits Damon's family, she makes it a fairly long visit because the distance from NC is so great. Communicating with Spanish grandchildren has been made easy because Damon speaks only English to them. He and Eva own three optical shops and keep busy.

Her son Ryan is a federal DEA agent and in the next state. Consequently, Janice can have more family visits with them. He and his wife **De-Ann** have one son who is now a freshman in college.

Here's a notable anecdote from the annals of a 1960s legal mind which came out of Mills Home. You've already guessed! That person is the one and only **Macon "Bucky" Clark**. He wrote: "One night a group of us was headed back to the Farm Cottage and we noticed **Pastor Lambert's** Volkswagen "Beetle" parked across from the church. Of course, I am not sure where the idea came from (that's my story and I'm sticking to it), but someone had the brilliant idea of moving the car. We set to work moving the Beetle, figuring some brilliant idea would come to us. We pushed the car across the street and with much grunting and groaning, we got it over the curb and into the area below the steps of the church. Then, the idea hit us! So, with all the muscles we had earned working the farm and dairy, we picked up the car and put it on the church porch right between the center columns of the church. We placed it crossways so that there was very little room between the bumpers and the columns. Hence, it could not just be driven away. We hurriedly made a beeline for the Farm Cottage so satisfied we had pulled a good trick and nobody would ever know. Well, the next day and, lo and behold, **Bill Sisk** sent word for us to meet him in front of the church. With great trepidation, we hustled to meet his dreaded face. Clearly, he did not think it was funny, but since no damage had been done, he made sure we safely returned the car to the right spot and let us go on our way."



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



EVERY CHILD Foster & Adoption Ministry
Foster family to care for newborns
 This foster mother and her husband agreed to care for these newborn twins. Their selfless efforts highlight the many ways the EVERY CHILD ministry serves vulnerable children.



EVERY CHILD Foster & Adoption Ministry
Leaders share in new podcasts
 BCH President/CEO Michael C. Blackwell and NC Baptist EDT Todd Unzicker discuss how the entities' partnership and church involvement are growing foster care and adoption in NC.



Broyhill Home in Clyde
Children explore, make memories
 Haywood Cottage children from Broyhill Home explored the "Road to Nowhere" in Bryson City. This road was started in the early 20th century, but was never finished.



Piney Knob Baptist Church in Rutherfordton
Necessities collected for Broyhill
 James Haynes with Piney Knob Baptist Church brought laundry detergent and paper towels for Broyhill Home in Clyde. The church also made a donation to help meet the needs.



Cameron Boys Camp in Cameron
New camp cooking area
 The Rangers group at Cameron Boys Camp are hard at work to rebuild the cooking area at their campsite. Two days per week, the boys use this area to plan and cook their meals.



First Baptist Church in Kings Mountain
Church contributes to new homes
 Pastor Chip Sloan from FBC presented BCH's Jody Yopp with a \$10,000 gift. Funds will assist with River Hill Refuge, BCH's family foster homes being built in Shelby.



Mills Home in Thomasville
Church helps build basketball court
 Living Hope at Ballantyne organized a party for Mills Home children. Boys received Air Jordan shoes to use on the new outdoor basketball court the church raised money to build.



Broyhill Home in Clyde
Church drops off essentials
 Bethany Baptist Church stopped by Broyhill Home recently with donations. The church collected necessities and other items for the children living in the cottages.



Christian Adoption Services
Adoptive family welcomes newborn
 The "C" family (name changed for privacy) officially finalized their adoption. Their adoptive newborn has one excited big brother. Learn more at www.christianadopt.org

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- Cameron Boys Camp**
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Vance and Doris Russ remembered for service — Alumni encouraged to be good to people

By **JOHN THOMPSON**, 104 Village Court, Havelock, NC 28532

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Remember to mark your calendars: Homecoming is June 4 and 5. Let's all get on the telephone and call all Kennedy Home (KH) brothers and sisters and tell them you want to see them this year. You will be receiving your Homecoming packet from **President Katie Parker**, and her KH officers pretty soon. Please return your reservation sheets back with any corrected addresses. Also, when you arrive at the registration desk in the gym, bring with you about two sheets of information about your stay at KH for me to share in the **Charity & Children**.

When my family moved to KH way back in 1972, we lived in the old clinic building. The home on the other side of the street was the home for **Doris and Vance Russ**, along with **Tim, John, and Dan**. Doris and Vance helped us a lot about working with children in care. He was born June 5, 1934 and went to heaven on February 2, 2022. He had a wonderful family. Vance met his lifetime partner and true love, Doris Dixon, while attending church in Raleigh. Doris became Mrs. Vance Rus on Christmas Day in 1953.

Rev. Roger Williams met Vance and asked him to come work and serve the Lord at KH. He asked Mr. Russ to come and be in charge of a camping program known as the "Frontiersmen," a program of wilderness therapeutic group living. On June 7, 1974, Vance became director and chief counselor.

The program was a constant teaching process that took place through "doing." Whether in the camp or in the cottage, everything was based on "group" learning and helping each other.

Richard and Judy Poteat sent this very special note: "We were part of the staff when Vance and Doris moved to KH and Vance began the wilderness program. He sacrificed many hours in planning and devel-

oping this new service for Baptist Children's Homes. Because of it's success, it was the catalyst for Cameron Boy's Camp. Vance never gave up on the program and never gave up on the young people he worked with. He was appreciated and respected by the children and co-workers. We were also blessed to be members of the same church where, once again, Vance never gave up serving. He and Doris worked with the Neuse Baptist Association in providing a witnessing booth at the local county fair each year. They also provided, through the Association a worship service during the summer at the Cliffs of the Neuse State Park located in Wayne County."

Donna Duty writes: "One year my campus job at Kennedy Home was to clean the main office after school every day. I was to also sweep the porches at the office. Vance Russ' office was located off the screened inside porch of the office building. He would always have a kind word and smile for me. On those days when he would ride up on his motorcycle, he would be wearing his cowboy hat, jeans, boots, and flannel shirt."

Georgia Green writes that she met Mr. Russ in 1970-71 when she was at the Odd Fellows Home. He was the superintendent there. She states: "From the first communication with him, I had respect and knew he was 99% business. My job was in the laundry room ironing and washing the clothes of the people there. This is where I first learned responsibility and life skills. He would come in the laundry area for a few minutes checking to see if all was okay with everyone and leave to check on other areas. Later, I landed a job in the kitchen making biscuits. Although they were small, most seemed to like the ones I made. Guess nobody got sick. In the living quarters we had "wings"—one for the boys and one for the girls. I'll always give Vance

Russ credit for having a Christian lady to train us and teach us how to make beds and keep a clean-living area.

"For many years I wondered about his family but didn't know much about them. They weren't around very much. I later found Mr. Russ had the most precious wife, Doris, who had the sweetest smile. I'll never forget her loving, caring way and so gently she guided and helped explain life as to a young girl could understand. She'll always be a precious woman to whom I call "Ma" Russ.

"Later the Odd Fellows Home closed and the Russ family went to KH. I was told it would be best for me to go to the same place and I remember to this day—I was so happy! As the years continued, I saw little of the Russ family since they had their own jobs and their lives were busy. I was so blessed to have a job cleaning the church and I remember him walking in on me one day as I was singing a gospel song. I wanted to crawl under the table I was mopping under. He was always business as usual and in and out. Later, I landed a job in the gym in the shack bar. That's where I saw his son more from a distance playing basketball. That was the highlight of my day. The memory was so fond, but it was never meant to be. Through the years Vance and Doris Russ have held a special place in my heart and truly always will. To this day, I credit both of them for my deep solid roots that are strong. After I left KH, I did visit again and am so thankful I told them both, 'I love you.' People need to hear your heart felt love. You never know what tomorrow holds. He gave me a stool he made by hand and I'll never part with it. Today I thank God for putting them in my path. Yes, I've surely been more than blessed because of them!"

Ray Lewis passed on February 22. He passed away at home with

his children by his side. Ray's early years were spent at KH, where he credits his success in life. With love, encouragement, and support, Ray made friends who became family during his time there. He looked forward to their annual reunions at the Kennedy Home Homecoming. Let's all remember his family during this time of sadness. Ray was a lover of the outdoors and enjoyed tinkering and was a good "fixer upper." He enjoyed playing golf. He was a longtime member of the Falling Creek Country Club and later, the Goldsboro Country Club.

Kim Allison shared a life motto that I want to leave with you. I think it really says a lot. Read it several times and make it a part of your life. "No matter what happens in life, be good to people. Being good to people is a wonderful legacy to leave behind."

I think this says a lot to all of us. As you know, I now live in a duplex in a neighborhood that is so friendly. Some of them have already been over to my home to bring me lunch, supper, and invited me to go out to eat. They always speak or wave. There are two neighbors who asked for my son's phone number in case I got sick and they need to call them. The one on the other side of my home checks on me every day to see if I am doing well.

Are you that way with your neighbors? I want to encourage you to know who lives beside you. Do you know their name? If not, why not? Let people know you love the Lord and want to be a loving, caring neighbor. Always feel welcome to come visit me in Havelock. Write me on my email: jthompson117@ec.rr.com I love company. It gets so lonely without my **Becky**.

Love ya! jt



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

Lily teaches this ol' dog a thing or two

By Jim Edminson, Editor

Lily is my two-year-old pup. My daughters call her a princess. Come to think of it, she can look quite regal at times. At other times, she is all dog, flying across the backyard after squirrels in a downpour, plopping down in cool clover to gnaw a big hickory stick, and rolling over for a belly rub.

I am watching her cavort across the scented, spring grass, jumping for things I can't see, and looking like she's living her best life. Lily reminds me that this day is precious and fleeting, and making the most of it should be a top priority. As the psalmist puts it in 118:24: "This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it." *Romp in the sunshine? Rejoice in this day! Slog through the rain? Rejoice!*

Here are more lessons I recall from scripture as I share days with Lily.

Express gratitude.

Weekdays must stretch long for Lily. I leave early and return after darkness has fallen. No matter what companionship she lacks while I'm away, she invariably welcomes me with what sure looks like thankfulness. It is easiest to be aware of the goodness of God when all I need and most of what I want is in my grasp. There are other times in my life when being thankful is an act of the will.

In my tough-truth moments, I know

I stray away from my heavenly Father, taking His close walk with me too often for granted, rather than, as Paul counsels believers: "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

Leave the past in the past.

Having a dog in my life means taking care of her health and grooming needs, and I am all in here; Lily, however, is not. With a sixth sense that is uncanny, she seems to know when vet day looms. I don't really understand it. Our morning routine is, well, routine, but she balks on vet mornings when I put her lead on. She is a sizable girl, and we make a comical pair as I heave her into the car while she goes dead weight in fear and loathing. On the drive, she moans and then whimpers the entire journey. Misery is not too big a word for our experience. But the day after the travail, the experience fades into the past as she again leaps up and runs to the door when I pick up her lead.

Do you recall the plight of Lot's wife who could not stop herself from looking back? I lean into the advice in Proverbs: "Let your eyes look straight ahead; fix your gaze directly before you." As my mentor reminds me: *Don't look back—you're not going that way.*

Love unconditionally.

Sometimes it is a difficult concept to grasp, the unflinching, unfailing, unconditional love the One God has for me. However, in a very small way, in a quite inadequate analogy, Lily demonstrates that kind of forbearance to this imperfect human. When I am at my most tolerant of her puppy ways, she loves being with me; when I express great displeasure in her antics, she loves being with me. When I must discipline her, she loves being with me—after a bit! Having a dog

reminds me that there needs to be a capacity for loving regardless of circumstances.

It is amazing how many lessons this ol' dog recalls by spending days with Lily. In my Bible study, I am studying the prophets. Last night, I read again the words of the Lord to His people in Jeremiah: "I have loved you with an everlasting love." I am thankful.

In my everyday life, the Lord God shapes me more into the person He desires me to be. He accomplishes this through His Spirit and through the people—and the pup—in my life. Praise be to the Almighty.



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