



Podcast celebrates anniversary

Listen as Dr. Blackwell recounts 38 years of service, leadership milestones, and accomplishments. Visit www.bchblog.org/podcast.

Charity & Children

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



@bchfamily

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Photo credit: Amanda Deaton Photography

Couple commits to “love on” five adopted children

By Jim Edminson, Editor

Sara and Chad enjoy the beach. Going to the beach for the couple has always just been about getting a few days off from work, packing a bag, and going. But their most recent trip was more of an ordeal.

In the span of just a few years, the duo have gone from thinking about starting a family to adopting and rearing five children ages three to ten. Four of the children are siblings.

“I come from a big family,” Sara begins. “I am the third of four children and when we traveled by car, you had to know how to pack.”

The couple traded their two sedans in for a minivan and a SUV in late 2020. Sara chuckles recounting that Chad had said he

would never drive a minivan.

“We are experiencing change at the speed of light,” Chad muses. “Honestly, I’m doing things I never thought about doing. But when God does something, you just hold on for the ride.”

The few bags the duo would have packed now include car seats and boosters for each child, luggage for each child, and various and sundry things that each child insists are necessary for the beach trip.

“We get them buckled and finish packing around the children and that big vehicle is stuffed,” Sara laughs.

Sara and Chad began their journey when a couple from their church, Philadelphia Baptist Church in Marshville, shared how their granddaughter needed a home. The

couple turned to the Lord, prayed, and agreed to care for six-month-old Skylar. When the opportunity for the couple to adopt the little girl came, they stepped up.

Only months before Skylar’s adoption was finalized, Sara and Chad were introduced to siblings: JJ age 10, Liam age 9, Kevin age 5, and Leah age 4.

“Our church invited Kevin Qualls to speak one Sunday,” remembers Sara. Qualls directs Christian Adoption Services which is now part of Baptist Children’s Homes (BCH). “Kevin shared about becoming BCH foster parents. We were interested, committed, and began the certification process and training.”

Even though the couple was adopting a child and believed God was opening

Continued on page 3

This hope train is bound for glory!

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

Railroads are lifelines in this country, moving goods and people between borders along narrow spines of steel.

In days past, towns sprung up at water and fueling points. During the Great Depression, hobos hopped trains without paying and rode to the next opportunity or disappointment. Trains are a part of our cultural landscape. Musicians have written songs inspired by the lonely, piercing whistles of a steam engine, and artists have captured with brush the billowing clouds of black and gray smoke once spewed from stacks as trains choked and chugged lines of freight cars behind them up steep grades or along stretches of treeless plains.

Trains represent the hope of a new beginning, the sadness of leaving, the thrill of an unlimited future, the sorrow of a failed past.

Crowded roads and better service have increased train interest in North Carolina's Amtrak that runs daily between Charlotte and Raleigh, capturing the interest of business people and day trippers who otherwise would have toiled on glutted highways.

Baptist Children's Homes state administration offices are at Mills Home in Thomasville where one of the busiest train corridors on the eastern seaboard runs. There are so many railroad crossings in "Chair City" that travelers are sure to be stopped by passing trains most any time of day. I've waited for a train coming from the left, and before the guard rails go up, another passed from the right.

Several dozen trains of all descriptions roll by Mills Home at all hours. The ground shakes and the train whistles rattle cottage windows just a stone's throw away. I tell you this because it strikes me lately how much BCH is like a train.

One of the awesome characteristics of a train is the incredible momentum it has, even when traveling slowly. The combined forces of mass and forward motion means it takes a train a long time to stop.

Baptist Children's Homes has 135 years of momentum. The combined mass of children and families, supporters, trustees, administration and staff, buildings, land, and other assets has moved through the history of this state like a freight train, slow, steady, and mighty.

It has followed

along straight tracks, glistening with promise and running true.

Holding those rails together are the firm ties of the trustees, solid and true. Our mission rests on their guidance and support. The rails don't separate or start to split off into odd directions because the trustees hold them together on track.

Any engine needs fuel and BCH's contributing individuals, churches, corporations, foundations, and families supply the fuel to keep this train rolling. Without them we coast to a stop and this trip is over.

Passengers on this train are the children, foster families, intellectual and developmentally disabled adults, senior adults, and families in crisis. They board from all directions and from every situation. Some are put on by caretakers, some by family members, others jump aboard on their own. They often sit next to a window, noses pressed against the glass, wondering how they got there and where they're going. They wonder, what will be waiting when the whistle blows, the train stops, and the porter hands them their luggage and they begin the BCH leg of their journey.

Child care workers and foster care families are conductors on this train. They walk the aisles and help passengers find their way. They provide blankets for comfort and answer bewildering questions. The conductors nurture the passengers until they arrive.

If you remember just a few months back, the cyber-attack of the east coast Colonial Pipeline threatened fuel shortage and was tremendous cause for concern. Our "friend raisers" are constantly scouting new sources of fuel to ward off any shortages, arranging to have the fuel deposited and ready to power the engines. Trains don't pass silently in the night. Our overriding purpose is to sound off like a whistle announcing a train is coming.

And I am the engineer, head out the window, one hand on the throttle, and an eye on the track ahead. I've already lost my striped cap to the wind, and we're moving on, working together for the well-being of our passengers. This train is bound for glory.

Bring your gifts, your fears, your needs, your hopes. Whether you're running from failure or sprinting toward new hope—ALL ABOOOAAARRRDDD!



Michael C. Blackwell leads the ministry with vigor and enthusiasm. He has served as president of Baptist Children's Homes since 1983 and marks his 38th anniversary in 2021.



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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Expanded team brings expertise to new website

Baptist Children's Homes (BCH) has redesigned and launched its flagship website for the first time in eight years. The new *bchfamily.org* website was unveiled on July 15 giving the site a much-needed look and streamlined approach to finding ministries, events, and stories related to BCH's many ministries.

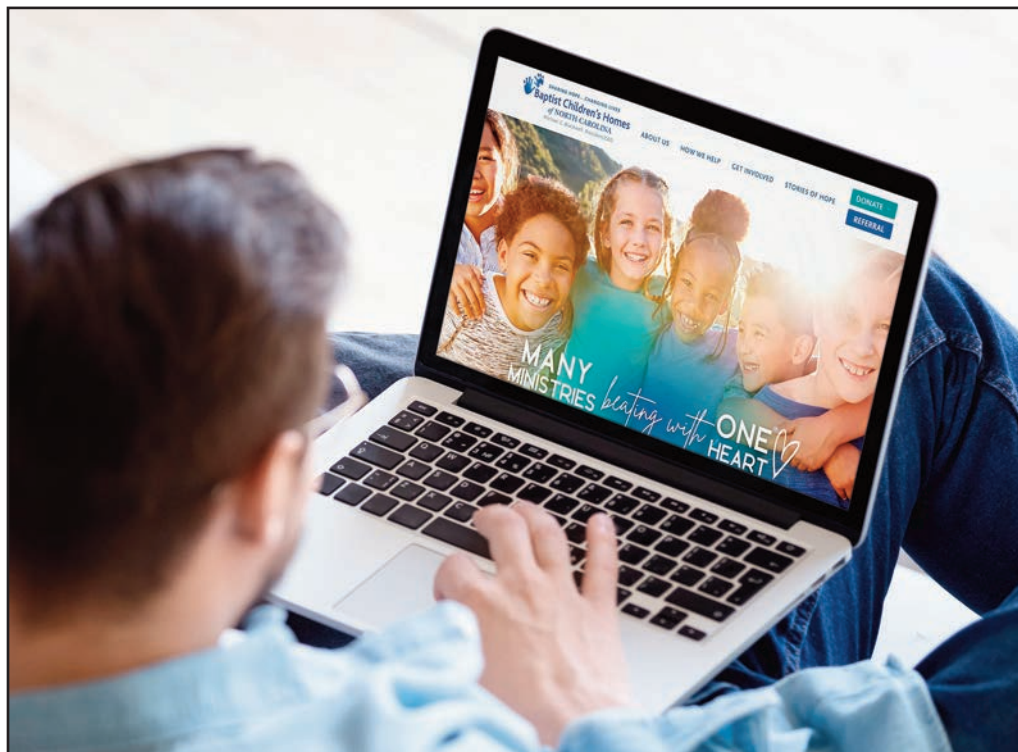
Website responsibilities fall under the oversight of BCH Director of Communications Blake Ragsdale who gave a frank assessment of the organization's online presence: "The former website had been outdated for quite some time. The redesign plan had more than several false starts to the point where I was uncertain of how it was ever going to happen. Even with websites, God has a way of providing."

What Ragsdale could not predict is how BCH's acquisition of Christian Adoption Services (CAS) would offer the solution. As a byproduct of last year's acquisition, CAS staff members Cyndie Truax and Lauren Hyatt became a part of the BCH's development and communications team. Truax, who directs marketing and development for CAS, and Hyatt, who is the webmaster and site developer for CAS, brought the additional skills and expertise to partner with Ragsdale and BCH digital marketing specialist Jacob Riggs.

"Adding Cyndie and Lauren to the team has been amazing," Ragsdale said. "We sat down in January and began to dream and we were on the same page instantly. It was exciting."

Ragsdale joked that there were three main objectives for the new *bchfamily.org*: streamline, streamline, and streamline.

"The old website became so dense with infor-



The new Baptist Children's Homes website launched on July 15. The redesigned site brings a streamlined approach making it simpler for visitors to find the services and information they need about BCH's array of ministries to children, families, and adults. Visit bchfamily.org and discover

mation that it was difficult to navigate," Ragsdale explained. "Giving it a clean aesthetic, creating a more intuitive navigational menu, and cutting the excess has given us exactly what was needed."

"I've tried to keep my humor about the process because a redesign was long overdue."

That sense of humor carried over to the camaraderie shared by the team. When it came time to plan the site's official launch, the team came up

with a creative way to let the public know.

"I quipped that the new site was 'decades in the making,'" Ragsdale laughed. "Cyndie ran with what I said and, before I knew it, we were in front of a camera filming this crazy promotional video. It's been hard work but a lot of fun."

Visit the new *bchfamily.org* and watch the "It's About Time!" video below.



Watch the new website video at bchnc.org/no80.



Family Foster Care program key to children's new home

By **Jim Edminson**, Editor

Continued from page 1.

the door for them to become a foster care family, they did not expect a morning phone call from BCH Family Foster Care Supervisor Gretchen Goers.

"These sweet children were ready for adoption and needed to stay together," Sara remembers, "Gretchen asked us if we would consider fostering the siblings with the intention to adopt all four."

It is very difficult to find families who will adopt large sibling groups. Two prior times, adoptions for the children had fallen through.

"I was hesitant," Chad says. "For Sara, it was immediate. She would have said yes before she hung up the phone. Gretchen told us that she knew the children personally and believed they would be a great match. We told her we would call her back."

Sara and Chad reached out to their families.

They knew they would need their support for such an undertaking. The families affirmed the decision. A second long phone call with Gretchen answered many of Chad's questions. The couple prayed earnestly that afternoon and before the sun set, they called back.

"We believed it was meant to be," Chad says. "When you know something is God ordained, you can be confident that everything else will work out."

Unlike Skylar's private adoption which was a lengthy two and a half year process, the sibling's parental rights had been voluntarily terminated and could be immediately adopted. The siblings became a part of Sara and Chad's growing family on August 15, 2020. The children's adoptions were finalized in December.



Sara and Chad

"It's amazing how quickly we have become a family," Sara says. "JJ has put Skylar under his wing like his other younger siblings. Sometimes, she would rather him tuck her in bed at night than one of us."

Sara and Chad are often asked how they do it. Both admit that every day comes with challenges, but they agree it is worth it.

"No matter what," Sara says, "you love on them. That's what they need—and want the most. They need to know they are loved."

To learn more about how BCH can help churches and couples offer support, community, and Christian homes to children, visit the Foster and Adopt website at www.bchfosteradopt.org.

Real heroes help children overcome heartache

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

Their names are not Superman, Wonder Woman, or Batman. They do not scale tall buildings. They don't fly through the air as high as planes. They do not have a lasso that forces anyone or everyone to tell the truth. They are real life heroes. In the eyes and hearts of those they serve, they help them scale and breakdown walls every day. They soar high with each child as they encourage and celebrate victories. And, without a lasso, they create a space where truth flows freely.

While they do not wear or use special gadgets, x-ray glasses, or a cape with special powers, they put on the whole armor of God. Their power comes from the Holy Spirit. Each day they walk on the battlefield ready to stand with the "least of these" in the midst of darkness and trauma. Their loins are girded with truth. They wear the breastplate of righteousness. Their feet are shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace. They take with them the shield of faith. They wear the helmet of salvation and carry the sword of the spirit which is the word of God. Armed with the armor of God they speak boldly! They live boldly! They love boldly! And, within them shines a Light so bright it pierces the darkness. Who are these people? They are the Baptist Children's Homes (BCH) staff. They are you. And, yes, all are **Heroes** with a capital H.

These heroes answer the calls and cries for help that come through BCH's switchboards each day. They carry children to doctor's appointments and counseling sessions. They work in our business office, our information technology department, our human resources department, and throughout our ministry. They pray over every child and person that walks through our doors. They pray over and thank God for every gift we receive. They share the BCH story in our churches all across North Carolina. They are our associational mission strategists, our pastors, our friends in the pews, our volunteers who pray and give of their time and resources. They are the BCH family. They are our staff members, they are you, they are me, *on mission together to share the gospel of God's Love and Amazing Grace.*

Late one night, four children came to live with us. They were victims of abuse. They knew all too well the impact drugs had on their family. They were hungry. Their clothes were dirty with stains on top of stains. Their shoes were too small and worn beyond use. You could see the effect of the trauma they had experienced in their eyes and in their fear. They were embraced by two of our



Heroes. Our cottage parents, armed with the armor of God, began to pour into these children. First, they poured into them by providing for their physical needs. They fed them with food you provided. They clothed them with clothes you provided. They gave them a Bible you provided...*on Mission together to share the gospel of God's Love and Amazing Grace.* After devotions one night, one of the boys waited until all the others had made their way to their bedrooms. With tears in his eyes, he asked his houseparent to share the story again.

"Does Jesus love me like that?" he asked.

"Yes," his cottage parent replied.

"OK then, I love Jesus."

Darkness surrounded this precious six-year-old boy, who was abandoned at the shopping mall. Imagine for a moment the fear this child must have felt. Imagine being placed in a patrol car and being taken to a place filled with strangers. Imagine a social worker telling him he will be going to a new home.

As he arrives at his new home, he hears lots of noise coming from the nine children living in the cottage. The cottage parents greet him with open arms. The children in the cottage, realizing a new child has arrived, calm down and join the cottage parents in welcoming him into his new home. One of the children (understanding what this child is feeling) walks over and grabs the six-

year-old by the hand and says, "Come on, let's go play." "Do you want to see my Spiderman and Batman? I've got Superman too! Which one do you want." He doesn't realize it at this point but the real Heroes in this story are his cottage parents. Over the past few months, they have created a space where truth, love, and hope flow freely. You can see in his eyes, the fear has subsided and the sparkle has returned. This is evidence of our **Heroes** (which always includes you)...*on Mission together to share the gospel of God's Love and Amazing Grace.*

She is 15 years old. She was kidnapped. She jumped out of the moving car, breaking her leg. The department of social services intervened and determined BCH would be a safe place for her, a place where she could rest, recuperate, and find hope and healing.

The memory of this traumatic experience is haunting. Armed with the armor of God, the cottage parents have provided a safe place where she can experience truth and begin to create new memories. She arrived at the cottage a few short weeks prior to the cottage going to the beach. What better place to recuperate? When she first heard about the beach trip, she was a little apprehensive. How would she manage with a broken leg? How would she navigate the wheelchair? She had never been to the beach. She had never seen the ocean. She had never felt the calming effect of the breeze coming off of the ocean waves. She was overwhelmed by the experience of God's creation and by the love she was experiencing from the cottage parents and the girls in her cottage. Yes, she is still living with fear and trauma, and while her leg will soon heal, it will take her heart much longer to heal. Pray for this young girl as she continues on her journey to healing. Pray for her as she makes new memories each day, good memories, healing memories! You, our **Heroes**, our BCH family are helping to make these new memories possible...*on Mission together to share the gospel of God's Love and Amazing Grace.*

So, put on your cape, the armor of God! Come alongside us as we continue to fulfill the vision of "sharing hope...changing lives" in the name of Christ. **On Mission Together!**



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

“Can I wash my clothes everyday?”

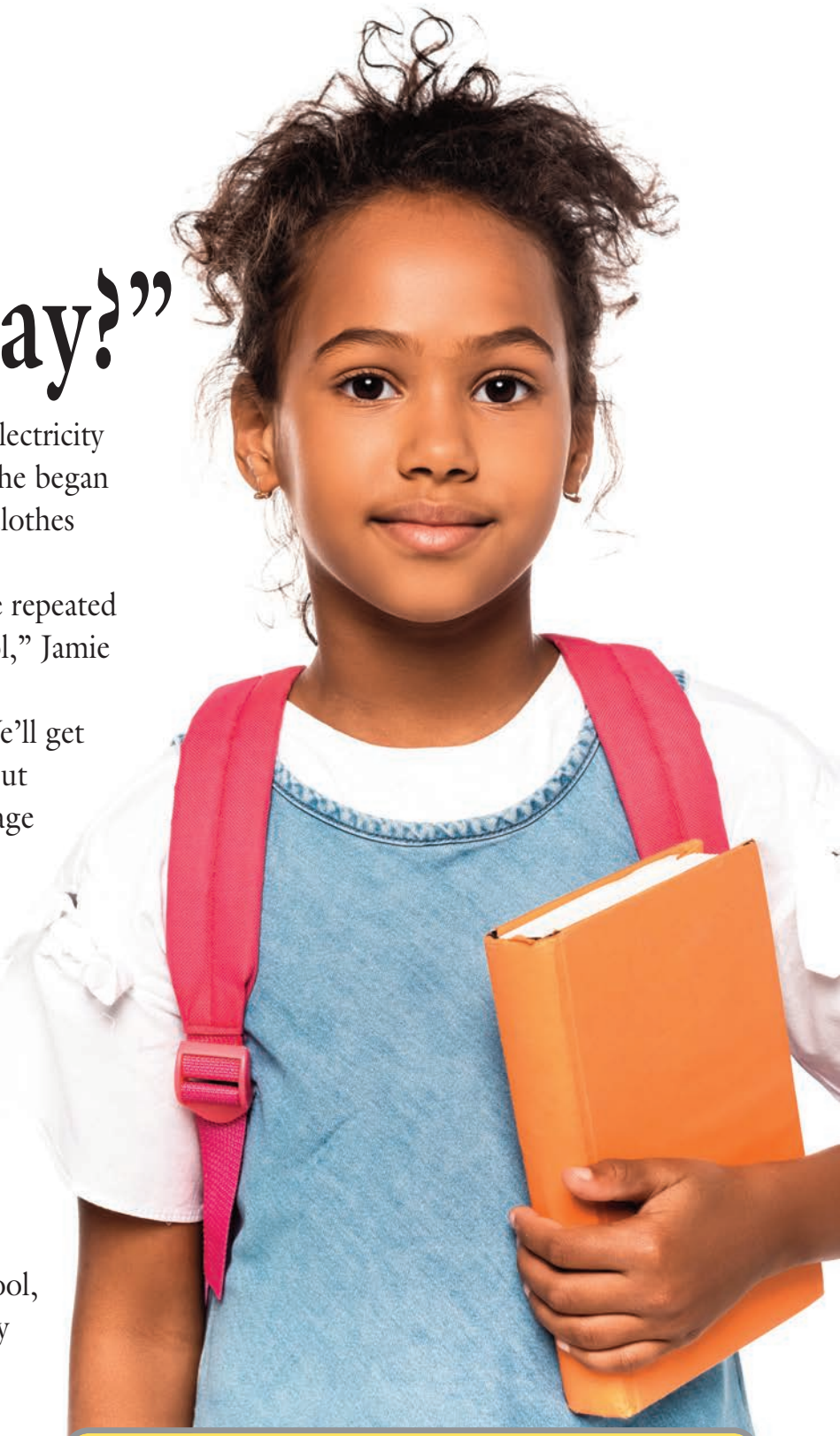
Nine-year-old Jamie had lived in a house that had no electricity or running water. The first day at Baptist Children’s Homes she began asking, “Do you have a washing machine?” “Can I wash my clothes everyday?”

Her cottage mother saw the tears in Jamie’s eyes as she repeated the questions. “I only have one outfit good enough for school,” Jamie declared. “I need to wash them so they’re clean.”

“I tell you what, let’s go shopping in a few minutes. We’ll get you new clothes for school. And you don’t have to worry about washing them, we’ll take care of that together.” And her cottage mom assured Jamie that there was a washing machine.

Jamie’s story is unfortunately too familiar. Many of our boys and girls come to us with only the clothes they are wearing. Most of the time they are dirty, tattered, and often don’t fit. Through your back-to-school gift, the items the children need are provided. Fear is replaced with excitement about school.

You can be a part of changing a child’s life by becoming a back-to-school sponsor! Use the postage-paid enclosed envelope or visit bchfamily.org/backtoschool to make your gift. You will not only help children be prepared for school, but you ensure children like Jamie have the caring home every child deserves.



Go to bchfamily.org/backtoschool or mail your gift.



I want to help a child achieve success!

☐ \$75 ☐ \$150 ☐ \$300 ☐ \$600 ☐ \$ _____ *Any size gift!*

To make a gift by check, please print your information below and mail this form with your check. to: BCH, P.O. Box 338, Thomasville, NC 27361

Name _____ Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Make your gift by credit card: Give online at www.bchfamily.org/backtoschool or make your gift by phone: Call Faith Frazier at 336-474-1312.

- ☐ Yes, I would like to receive email updates from Baptist Children’s Homes.
☐ Contact me with information on how to prepare a Christian Will. ☐ I have included Baptist Children’s Homes in my estate plans.

Trio of opportunities spotlight a full events calendar

By **Blake Ragsdale**, Managing Editor

Events quickly filled the calendar once pandemic restrictions were eased. Baptist Children's Homes (BCH) staff, caregivers and children are eager to greet friends when they return to the ministry's various locations.

"Having churches and friends on our grounds creates an excitement like nothing else," says BCH President/CEO Michael C. Blackwell. "Not only is their support vital for carrying out our many ministries, but their presence is a reminder to our children that there are scores of people that care about them."

Several new events are joining returning ones. Highlighting those opportunities are the River Hill Refuge Groundbreaking, Hope Harvest, and Bike for Hope.

River Hill Refuge Groundbreaking

The groundbreaking and community celebration on September 11 marks a milestone for BCH as it prepares to build three new homes in Cleveland County. River Hill Refuge is part of the organization's growing foster care ministry where each home will have a set of BCH recruited Christian foster parents who care for as many as five children at one time. The foster parents will care for the children the same way as other foster parents, except live in these BCH-owned homes.

"We want a huge crowd to come and celebrate this historic project," Blackwell says. "We have long desired a presence in this area of the

state as the needs are tremendous."

The day will include lunch beginning at noon and the groundbreaking program at 12:45 pm.

For more details, contact Alan Williams at 336.474.1277 or awilliams@bchfamily.org.

Bike for Hope

Lewis Smith, BCH's director of development for the western area and a bicyclist, is getting behind the handlebars for "Bike for Hope."

"God has given me a heart for children and a passion for cycling that I am able to use to raise support and inspire others," Smith says.

The fundraiser takes place throughout the month of September. Lewis will ride his bike on a safe, perimeter road at Charlotte Motor Speedway in Concord. While he may not be able to pedal as fast as the NASCAR

race cars that compete at the speedway, Smith has a finish line of his own he is training to reach. His goal is to cycle a total of 600 miles in a series of 12, 50-mile stages throughout September.

There are several options for friends wishing to sponsor Smith:

- Major Sponsor (All 12 Stages)—\$2,400
- Six Stage Sponsor (Six Stages)—\$1,200
- Stage Sponsor (One Stage)—\$200
- Mile for a Child Sponsor:

Make a contribution of your choice.

To give online, visit bchfamily.org/givenow



and choose "Bike for Hope" from the Direct My Gift menu. Checks can be mailed with "Bike for Hope" in the memo to BCH, P.O. Box 338, Thomasville, NC 27361. For more information, contact Lewis Smith at lsmith@bchfamily.org or 828.421.9300.

Hope Harvest Barbecue & Bluegrass

"Hope Harvest" on October 2 is an autumn event that will take place underneath the trees on the scenic Mills Home campus in Thomasville. The family-friendly evening by an outdoor stage features the contemporary Christian band "Guilford" featuring Parker and Hannah Webb. Christian bluegrass band Caroline featuring Caroline Owens will also perform. A catered meal is provided by local favorite *BBQ Joe's* and, as a bonus, guests arriving early beginning at 4:00 pm can be treated to a campus tour and an opportunity to shop at *Fancy Finds*, BCH's resale store where profits benefit the ministry. There will also be fun children's activities.

"It's an opportunity to support BCH while seeing the ministry up close during an incredible evening we have planned," says Karen Slate, BCH director of development for the greater Triad area. "There is an opportunity to give at the

event and to be a part of our silent auction which will raise some much-needed support."

For more information, click on bchnc.org/harvestbch or email Karen Slate at kslate@bchfamily.org.





08:00
August 2021
REMINDER
Baptist Children's Homes Events
Be a part of these upcoming opportunities

September

- 11th • River Hill Refuge Ground-breaking and Celebration
Shelby, NC | Info Coming Soon
- 12th to 16th • Online Silent Auction for Christian Adoption Services
Info to come at christianadopt.org
- 13th • Charlotte Golf Challenge for Christian Adoption Services
Cedar Wood Country Club, Charlotte
Register at christianadopt.org/events

- 18th • Founders Day at Camp Duncan
Aberdeen, NC | RSVP at 336.474.1209
Meet the girls and hear their testimonies. Tour their campsites and enjoy a free lunch.
- 18th • Friends of Children Saturday: One-day missions for all ages
Register at bchfamily.org/foc
 - Cameron Boys Camp, Cameron
 - Kennedy Home, Kinston
 - Odum Home, Pembroke
- 25th • Friends of Children Saturday:
Register at bchfamily.org/foc
 - Mills Home, Thomasville

October

- 2nd • Hope Harvest: BBQ Dinner & Live Music for Mills Home
God's Canopy on Blackwell Blvd.
Mills Home | Thomasville, NC
More info: bchnc.org/harvestbch
- 9th • Friends of Children Saturday:
Register at bchfamily.org/foc
 - Camp Duncan, Aberdeen

Check out all events on the "Get Involved" page at the new bchfamily.org

Needs met through caring volunteers

By **Samantha Allred**, NCBAM North Central Regional Director

Team members buzzed around Mills Home in Thomasville making final preparations for one of North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry's (NCBAM) newest initiatives—Camp BAM.

Schedules were printed, t-shirts sorted, and Little Cottage room keys were waiting. Lowes delivered lumber, screws, and concrete that would turn into needed wheelchair ramps. All was in order for what became a life-changing week of service.

Planning for Camp BAM started in late 2020 with a myriad of uncertainties surrounding COVID-19. The camp was designed to be an intergenerational mission week where volunteers show a heart to serve senior adults through safety repair projects. Planning continued as the NCBAM team trusted God to make clear the best path. By spring 2021, all things were coming together.

Project evaluations lined up perfectly and meal donations poured in from all across the state. Leaders from Impact Community Youth Group in Stanly County and FBC Concord were recruiting volunteers for the first Camp BAM.

Even with all the promising excitement whirling around, no one knew how big God's plans for the



Volunteers from the Impact Community Youth Group and FBC Concord are joined by NCBAM team members for the inaugural Camp BAM photo. The group tackled 19 projects helping senior adults in three counties. The camp was held June 24-28 and based at Mills Home in Thomasville.

week were. The focus remained on the tangible good that was going to be done. Aging adults who have been waiting patiently for wheelchair ramps, handrails, and smoke alarms were finally going to be served.

As leaders found committed volunteers, the planning team began to see how good God's



better can be, and glimpses into the hearts of the volunteers who were giving five days of their summer to serve strangers were revealed. God showed Himself through their compassion.

"I stood on the lawn of a senior receiving a handrail in awe of what God was doing," NCBAM director Sandy Gregory said. "All of us found it difficult to put into words how intentionally God was working in the lives of the volunteers."

Everyone has since returned home and seniors across three counties have safer homes. Nineteen projects were completed and 45 individuals were served. But 50 volunteers' lives were also changed. One pastor was heard to say that God was been made personal to these volunteers.

Camp BAM provides the opportunity to be the hands and feet of Jesus while volunteers of all ages are challenged to discover their purpose through a relationship with God.

Fund established for Camp BAM in memory of Luke McDowell

By **Carol Layton**, NCBAM Director of Communications and Administration

The "Live Out Luke" Endowment Fund was established in memory of William Luke McDowell, son of Rev. C.F. McDowell, III and Rev. Martha McDowell. Luke passed away suddenly in 2016 at age 20. At that time, his mother served as north central regional director for North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry (NCBAM). Because Luke had always shown love for seniors, memorial gifts were directed to NCBAM and held until a dedicated outreach was established to honor Luke's legacy.

Even though it wasn't called "Camp BAM" at the time, the outreach began during Martha McDowell's NCBAM tenure. She often brought youth groups together for ministry weeks to help the aging.

McDowell's successor, Samantha Allred, adopted the intergenerational ministry. With experience as a camp counselor and a children's minister, Allred began planning for Camp BAM two years ago. And in a "wink from God," as McDowell states, she brought youth from her church and community to take part in the first "Camp BAM" on June 24-28.

On the last day of Camp BAM, McDowell was joined by her sons, Addison and Ches, to present a check to Baptist Children's Homes President/CEO, Dr. Michael C. Blackwell, to help Camp BAM in

perpetuity. The family spoke of Luke's joyous spirit and how throughout life he had connected with older adults. They shared that at age 14, Luke stood at the conclusion of the Sunday morning worship service as his father issued the invitation and then exited the sanctuary. Martha recalled: "That was sacred space and my boys had been told not to move during the invitations. I remember thinking, 'Luke better be getting saved again, or he is in big trouble.' But then I watched him walk past his father and out a side door.

"Luke came back pushing a walker which he took to an elderly man sitting just behind where he had been sitting. The man used the walker to walk to the altar and join the church. Later, Luke explained that he told the man to tap him on the shoulder anytime



Martha McDowell and sons Ches and Addison are joined by Dr. Michael C. Blackwell in launching the "Live Out Luke" Endowment Fund in memory of Luke McDowell who died in 2016. The fund will benefit Camp BAM.

he needed his walker. That was our Luke."

The inaugural camp was also attended by First Baptist Church Concord. The two groups completed 19 projects serving 45 individuals.

The McDowell family sees Camp BAM as furthering Luke's legacy. "My boys are my legacy and I'm very proud of them, but I'm

Luke's legacy now, too. 'LOL' was chosen after Luke's death when his teenage cousin suggested we all "Live Out Luke" by demonstrating Jesus' love to others in unexpected, needed ways."

Contributions to the "Live Out Luke" Endowment Fund are tax-deductible and may be made payable to the NC Baptist Foundation at 201 Convention Drive, Cary, NC 27511.

Remember Mom and Dad

NOTE: Listed are **all** Honor and Memorial gifts made to BCH from April 1 through July 10.

IN HONOR

Abbey, Megan, Chelsea Webb, and Katelyn

by Wendi White

Adaline Robinson

by M/M Donald T. Robinson

Addison Holley

by Mrs. Doris M. Young

Ailene Taylor

by Shirley Prince

Alice and Dan Cheek

by Danielle Hornaday

Allen Watson

by Jennifer Watson

Amanda Hurley

by Sebrell C. Singleton

Amy Cody

by Connie S. Buckner

Andrew Winstead

by Sandra W. Moore

Andrew, Samuel, Noah and Jackson

by Mr/Mrs Curtis D. Tate

Angie Daniels

by Gregory and Nora Dixon

Ann T. McCain

by Richard B. McCain

Barbara Barrett

by M/M Randy Martin

Barbara Burroughs

by Michael L. Clark

BCH of NC Employees

by Rev. & Mrs. Gordon W. Hart

by Susan T. Clark

Beck and Paul Gordon

by Barbara J. Burns

Bertie Lanehart

by Linda Hewett

Betsy Gatlin Wilson

by M/M Martin H. Beach

Betty May

by Lloyd Willis

Betty Waddell Wagoner

by M/M Alfred Wagoner

Bill and Agnes Poole

by Mrs. Lois M. Rankin

Blake Ragsdale

by M/M Don Scarborough

Bob Foy

by M/M Don C. Hathaway

Bob Mayton

by Frances J. Johnson

Bobby Cox

by M/M S. Bart Jones

Bonnie Simms

by Nancy Gilbert

Boyce E. Thompson

by Teresa Hunsucker

Brad and Ashley Faucett

by Hallie Wheeler

Brenda Gray

by M/M Don Scarborough

Bryan O'Neill

by Rev. & Mrs. Danny Hawkins

Caitlin Lankin

by Shirley D. Bennett

Camp Duncan Campers

by Sylvia L. Dawson

Camryn, Garrett, and Sean

by Jane McAulay

Carl Anderson

by Joseph O. Watson, Jr.

Carol Shelton

by Dr. & Mrs. Ben A. Shelton, III

Carol Stephens

by Dr. & Mrs. Dale O. Steele

Carolyn Painter

by Edna Oakley

Catherine McLeod

by Jeanette Henley

Cecil Allen

by M/M Cecil O. Allen

Cecil Crawford

by Beth Crawford

Cecil McLamb

by M/M Raymond J. Warena

Charles Dekle

by Linda H. Dekle

Christina Craig

by Faye D. Kistler

Christopher Annas

by Mrs. Catherine Annas

Cindy Godwin

by Claudia W. Lattner

Clate Miller

by Nancy Miller

Cottage Parents

by Mrs. Janet Whichard

Coy and Mary Ann Chapel

by Wise Baptist Church

Dale and Debbie Holden

by Terry B. Griggs

Dana Jenkins

by Mrs. Barbara Drye

Darrell Taylor

by Margaret A. Scovil

David and Janette Ray

by Bruce R. Davenport

Debbie Mullis Pigg

by Jeremy Barbee

Deborah Buckner

by Connie S. Buckner

Deborah Voigt

by M/M Wayne D. Tilley

Don and Lisa Gainey

by M/M Harold Tharrington

Donnie and Angie Hare

by M/M Raymond J. Warena

Dorothy Barefoot

by Juanita G. McLamb

Dorothy Barefoot

by Anonymous

Dorothy, Donald, Earlene, and Larry Heath

by Kim Denis Mcgee

Doug and Carol Campbell

by Wanda Beasley

Dr. & Mrs. Dick Richardson

by Teresa Perdue

Dr. Bert Young

by Ida M. Collins

Dr. Robert S. Rawls

by Mrs. Martha R. Rawls

Eddie Jennings

by Shirley D. Bennett

Edith Gryder

by Garland and Reba Harmon

Edith Matthews

by Mrs. Margaret Wade

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by Leslie Van Den Berg

Eric and Ashley Althof

by Sharon M. Whitfield

Esther Gillis

by Mr. and Mrs. Royce A. Gills

Everett and Uriah Faucett

by Hallie Wheeler

Five Grandchildren

by M/M David E. Mikeal

Flora Hicks Patton

by Central Baptist Church

Freddie and Wanda Braswell

by M/M Herbert W. Pelley

Gayle and Frank Havens

by Alimamy and Donna Kanu

Gene Purdom

by Dr. & Mrs. Thomas H. Sears, Jr.

George and Helen Angone

by M/M Donald T. Robinson

George E. Pendleton III

by Tommie R. Pendleton

Ginnie Easter

by Ken Easter

Ginny Cockran

by H. R. and D. J. Burchfield

Ginny Cockran

by Nancy Rogers

Gracie and Zeke Houser

by Rhonda Coffey

Harry and Linda Dowless

by David Dowless

Hazel S. McGugan

by Clara Ann P. Crutchfield

Heather Wells

by Shirley D. Bennett

Heather Whitfield

by Roger and Brenda McCarter

Jacob Henry

by Tina Henry

by Wallace H. Henry

Jaden C. Beverly

by Margaret G. Beverly

James and Magdeline West

by Sam and Kathy West

James Mangum

by Edna Oakley

Jan Foster

by Iris R. Brown

Jay, Scarlett, Ashley, and Jason

Westmoreland

by T.G. "Wes" Westmoreland, II

Jazzlyn Jazelle Fuller

by Roger and Brenda McCarter

Jean F. Day

by Mrs. Jean F. Day

Jean McVerry

by Ann J. Timberlake

Jesus Christ

by Scott Rose

Jim and Mary Ann Moore

by M/M Michael A. Gibbs

Jim and Mona McRae

by Linda E. Bentley

Jim Dyer

by Daniel Heimbach

Jim Edminson

by M/M Don Scarborough

Jimmie and Connie Hobbs

by Mr. Terry B. Griggs

Jo Haywood

by M/M Benny Hampton

Joe and Gail King

by M/M David A. Huggins

Joe and Sue Williams

by Jim and Sherry Murph

Joe Byrd

by First Baptist Church

by Rubye E. Conroy

Joe Miller

by Pleasant Grove Baptist Church

John "Mark" Ball

by Roger and Brenda McCarter

John and Pam Robinson

by Mrs. Betty S. Anderson

John D. Strandridge

by Dr. Toni E. Raines

John Jones

by M/M Marvin Sparks

John Riggan

by Jona Gilliam

John Thompson

by Carol Chadwick

Johnny and Judie Butler

by M/M John Cottrell, Jr.

Josh Hardin

by Shirley D. Bennett

Joshua Privette

by Denise C. Privette

Joyce and Bill Washo

by Joann H. Gaddis

Joyce and Earl Roberts

by Stephanie Roberts

Karen Farthing

by Teresa Norman

Karen S. Havey

by Dr. and Mrs. Dale O. Steele

Katherine Carol Havey

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Ken and Martha Fulp

by Daphe V. Lomax

Kennedy Home

by Ruby L. Carr

Kennedy Home and Staff

by M/M Paul E. Mead

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by Shirley D. Bennett

L.D. and Betty Shuler

by David and Lucille Ollis

Laci Bell

by Larry and Vickie Homesley

Lana S. Howard

by M/M Robert H. Holliday, Jr.

Larry and Tricia Cribb

by Linda Hewett

Larry Phillips

by Denise Filip

Larry Wyatt

by Linnie Wright

Leahjane Lavin

by Wanda Beasley

Lillian James

by Mrs. Jenny J. Ayers

Linda Morgan

by M/M Don Scarborough

Lorene Kirby Burns

by Robert L. Patton

Louie Oakley

by Ellen Cooper

Lucille Buchanan

Mike Haywood
by M/M Benny Hampton

Mike Owens
by Mike and Elizabeth Owens

Mr. and Mrs. Graham Cooke
by M/M Harold Tharrington

Mr. and Mrs. Guy P. Thomas
by Mrs. Vanessa Demetriades

M/M Harold and Cathy Walsh
by Katie F. Reeves

Mr. Harold A. Floyd
by M/M Lionel H. Hahn

Mrs. Benny Banks
by Charlotte Cranford

Mrs. Joan Thompson
by M/M Herbert W. Pelley

Mrs. Kristine Kepley
by Teresa Perdue

My Children and Grandchildren
by Mrs. Sue B. Tidrick

Myrtle Watson
by Cynthia B. Dishman

Nan Cherry
by Sam Cherry

Nancy Ashby
by Robert T. Porter
by Woodbine Baptist Church

Nathan and Judi Sanders
by Rev. & Mrs. Danny R. Hawkins

Nick Ball
by Jenkins Tyler

Owen D. Hall
by Mrs. Bobbie A. Hall

Pam Brawley
by Mr. Terry B. Griggs

Pamela S. Annas
by M/M James C. Barlowe

Pastor Bill and Sharon Messer
by Mrs. Bobbie A. Hall

Patrick Fuller
by M/M Harold Tharrington

Patsy and Franklin McNeill
by Patricia Henderson

Peggy Pendleton Black
by Tommie R. Pendleton

Philip and Doris Marlowe
by Philip T. Marlowe

Phillip Robinson
by Denise Filip

Polly P. Staton
by Tommie R. Pendleton

R. Blair Little
by Tom and Ellen Storey McClay

Ray and Cathy Owen
by Alan Bentley

Raymond A. Smith, Sr.
by Donna Smith

Rebecca Wilder
by Marsha B. Miller

Rev. Eddie and Patty Honeycutt
by Deanne M. Moore

Richard and Alisa McCain
by Ann T. McCain

Richard Kruse
by Lisa H. Kruse

Rita Mattox
by M/M James E. Mills

Robert Bullard
by Ruby Bullard

Rodney and Joyce Campbell
by Betsy Clark

Ronald Carrow
by M/M Ronald Carrow

Ryan
by Beth and William Gates

Ryan Jennings
by Shirley D. Bennett

Sam Barefoot
by M/M Don Scarborough

Sam, Rachel, Noah, and Levi Caffell
by Ben Caffell

Sara Messer
by Ms. Jewel Autry

Selah, Jackson, Savannah Grant
by M/M John C. Allen

Sheri B. Little
by Linda S. Little

Shirley Boykins
by M/M Douglas Wallace

Shirley Canipe
by M/M James R. Canipe

Steve and Denise Wagoner
by David and Deborah Shaw

Ted and Frankie Denton
by Cindy Jennings

Ted Lanier
by Joseph H. Lanier

Teresa Barrett
by Dane L. Tudor

Terri and Scott Aulman
by Wanda Beasley

Terry Campbell
by Larry Parker

The Children at Baptist Children's Homes
by M/M Paul E. Mead

The Fathers
by Poplin Grove Baptist Church

Thomas H. Collis
by M/M Tommy Collis

Tim and Karen Worthington
by Ron Worthington

Tim and Sherri Gibson
by Mr. John R. Mayer

Tim Burriss
by Gregory W. Burriss

Tyler B. Beverly
by Margaret G. Beverly

Vacation Bible School
by Mary Elizabeth Baptist Church

Vicki and Roger Grossman
by Sara D. Perdew

W. W. and Joyce Dixon
by M/M James D. Smith

Wallace Maultsby
by Mrs. Martha L. Haire

Wayne Adams
by M/M R. Thomas Stroud

Wayne and Beverly Sutton
by Pamela Price

Welcome Home Baptist Church
by Clovie Dolinger

Wendy Fuller
by Dr. Patrick W. Fuller

Wes and Ruth Kinnamon
by Daren and Teresa Wiggins

Wes Westmoreland
by M/M Jay D. Westmoreland

Wiley Clary
by Larry and Anne Hall

Wilma Foushee
by Cecilia F. Cook

Women at Trinity Baptist Church
by Trinity Baptist Church

Wyatt Stewart
by M/M Don Scarborough

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Ada Fry and Creighton Cammer
by M/M H. Cornell Mock, Sr.

Agatha Cash
by M/M Don Scarborough

Alana Coughlin
by Madison Wilson

Alex Clark
by Kathryn Muller
by Michael Specht
by Sarah Monteleone

Alice Crutchfield
by Wayland Crutchfield

Allen and Shirley Johnson
by Joyce D. Shook

Allen J. "Bud" Goodman
by Mrs. Nancy H. Goodman

Allen Johnson
by Gurney Davis

Allen Stanley
by Lorene Pardue
and J. Wayne Pardue

Alvin Stallings
by Aleen W. Deal

Ana Collinsworth
by Cabin Missionary Bapt. Church

Andrew Pettiford
by Patricia Pettiford

Angeline "Angie" Johnson Bryant
by Kim W. Gamlin

Angie D. Hammonds
by Mrs. Ann Thomas

Ann Goss
by Clovie Dolinger

Ann Henderson
by Mrs. Betty C. Herron

Ann Lancaster Evans
by Kim W. Gamlin

Ann Lowery
by M/M Robert F. Lassiter

Ann P. Whitmire
by Kathleen P. McMillian

Anne Bulluck
by M/M Horace M. Mast

Anne Council
by Kathy C. Orum

Anne Mercer Kesler Shields
by Howard W. Shields

Annie Gupton
by Bubba Bryant

Annie Mae Hobson Lewis
by M/M David M. Coble

Annis Porter
by Broadus E. Heatherly

Archie B. Payne
by Mildred Underwood

Archie Pilkerton
by First Baptist Church

Arthur Thompson
by Linda Hewett

Audrey Baity Elledge
by Dan Price

Barbara Stone Collier
by Lynn B. Purdie-Brennan

Barbara Yarboro
by Douglas D. Yarboro

Ben Simpson
by New Hope Baptist Church

Benny Goldberg
by Joe and Lisa Barker

Bernard Dean
by M/M Michael H. Walters

Betty and Sam Knight
by M/M Robert C. Bondurant

Betty Baker Horton
by Mrs. Jean V. Wiggs

Betty Bunch
by Betty B. Ward

Betty Cannon
by Jimmy E. Driggers

Betty Davis Britt
by M/M Mitchell Taylor

Betty Monds
by Mary Mc. White

Beulah Teague
by Sharon Deal

Beverly Bingham
by Ken Easter

Bill and Jackie Pittman
by Barbara Gail Pittman

Bill Carpenter
by M/M J. K. Shuler

Bill Cullipher
by Twyla L. Pearson

Bill McLean
by Jean A. Moody
by Sarah G. Stone &
Olivia A. Stone

Bill Roberts
by Dennis and June Moore

Billie Lou Dunn Godwin
by M/M Don Scarborough

Billy and Opaline Riley
by M/M Joel R. Riley

Billy Rivers
by M/M Don Scarborough

BJ Jerry Livingston
by Wanda Beasley

Blanche & Clarence Helderman
by Ms. Linda H. McDonald

Bob Kimzey
by M/M Don Scarborough

Bob Pearl
by M/M Daniel Kohler

Bobby Bond
by Edna Bond

Bobby Gene Johnson
by Mildred C. Johnson

Bobby J. Moretz
by Mrs. Margaret Moretz

Bobby Pressley
by Brenda Pressley

Bobby Pusser
by M/M Bobby L. Caddell

Bobby Raines
by Sherri Weeks

Brandon E. Hillman
by Shari W. Hunt

Brandon Mikeal
by M/M David E. Mikeal

Brenda Norris
by Barry and Brenda Norris

Brent Upton
by Ronald Hudgins

Brian Gibson
by Joan R. Paris

Bruce Dayton
by Rebecca L. White

Bryan Allred
by Dolores A. Keye
by Jennifer Wandzel
by Kelly Long

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by Judith Dean

Cameron Cope
by Natalie Johnson

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by Mr. Wiley G. Clary, Jr.

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by Larry D. Carpenter

Carlton Nixon
by Anne Nixon

Carol Pridgen Bickel
by M/M Raymond J. Warenda

Carol Sue Rackley Jackson
by Piney Grove Baptist Church

Carolyn Tillman
by Dennis and June Moore

Carrie Easterling Griggs
by Terry B. Griggs

Cathy H. DeHart
by Sammy J. DeHart

Cecil and Jewel Oates
by Susan O. Anthony

Cecil Huskins
by Karen R. Young

Charles and Sybil Eurey
by Charles Eurey, Jr.

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by Annie Bartholomew

Charles Calhoun
by M/M Charles M. Calhoun

Charles Edward Overton
by Peggy J. Overton

Charles Franklin Renn Jr.
by Kermit C. Copley

Charles J. Rich, Sr.
by M/M Charles J. Rich, Sr.

Charles Ray Hemphill
by Allaine L. Hewitt
by Sheri F. Straub

Charlie Reeves
by Katie F. Reeves

Charlotte Dillon
by Joyce Love

Chris Evans
by M/M Dennis F. Hayward

Christopher Bell
by Mrs. Shirley S. Childers

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by Mary Chan Lovell

Claude Landers
by Tina A. Landers

Cleve Wilkie
by Zeb Russell

Cliff Sullivan
by Mary Beth Wilkie

Clyde and Katherine Price
by Alden Dale Price

Clyde and Verona Carter
by Joan Henry

Clyde Broughton
by Shirley Best

Clyde Stallings
by Hank and Connie Harrelson
by Mr. Charles E. Arnold
by Sandy Cross Baptist Church

Clyde W. Penley
by Mrs. Melba Penley

Commadore Broughton Homesley
by Larry and Vickie Homesley

CDR Robert Sherwood Rawls
by Mrs. Martha R. Rawls

Cothran Wall
by Barbara H. Ingool
by Debbie Roach
by Timothy and Cindee Bridges

Coty Wall
by David and Sandra Hicks
by Janet Walker

Craig Lyerly
by Dianne Lyerly

D. A. Randy Rouse
by Cherry Rouse

Dan Critcher
by M/M Don Scarborough

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by Judy Hayes
by Peggy L. Hearn

Danny Hicks
by Anonymous
by Dwight and Michele Hicks

Darrell Thompson
by Patti Freeman

David Bardeu
by Linda Hewett

David Regoli
by Sandra J. Lytton

David Whitfield
by Joan Floyd

Deborah Winfree
by M/M Don Scarborough

Deborah Winstead
by Mrs. Jenny J. Ayers

Delma Gay Galloway
by Diane B. Heinrich
by Georgia M. Thomas
by M/M James C. Moore

Dent King, III
by Donna R. Barrett

Dianne Miller
by Roger and Brenda McCarter

Dixie Parris
by Wanda Buchanan

Don and Alice Parsell
by Mrs. Cynthia Kennedy

Don and Lillian Walter
by M/M Mark B. Walter

Don Branch
by Sylvia B. Davis

Don Morris
by Marie D. Morris

Donald and Lillian Walter
by M/M Mark B. Walter

Donald Davis Sain, Jr.
by M/M Donald D. Sain

Donald Glenn Carpenter
by Larry D. Carpenter

Donald Ray Lee
by Elizabeth R. Lee

Donnie Mae Cannon
by Jessica Mohr
by Stephanie H. Pollinger

Donnie Wray
by Elaine Hooker

Doris and William Bias
by M/M Don Scarborough

Doris Bigham
by M/M Michael H. Walters

Doris Godwin
by M/M Don Scarborough

Doris Hurley
by Vivian H. Souther

Doris Mae Keefe Hughes
by Rev. Robert E. Hughes, Jr.

Doris Powell
by Spilman Memorial Baptist Ch.

Doris Sells
by Magdalene Pinkelton

Dorothy Cassell
by William and Cathey Hooper

Dorothy Helms Fullerton
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by Terri Helms

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Dr. Lew Bennett
by Mrs. Beverly D. Morgan

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by M/M Don Scarborough

Dwight Hicks
by Dianne P. Hicks

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by Mrs. Barbara Barrett

Edna Emily Ray Smith
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by Nora B. Hough

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by Sharon Lappin

Elizabeth Daniels Barber
by Anthony and Cinda Bass

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by J. D. Wright, Jr.

Ellen Floyd Hardy
by Nancy W. Britt

Elva Mae Riddick
by Sandy Cross Baptist Church

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by Mr. Steve M. Holloway

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by Lisa H. Kruse
by Martha P. Harris

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by Supply Baptist Church

Faye and Dallas Ball
by Leta Ballard

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by Stephen H. Kellen

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by Lynn Littell

Frances Graham
by Catherine Graham

Frank
by Sam and Kathy West

Fred and Gladys Graham
by Karen D. Graham

Fred Culler
by Eleanor B. Culler

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by Wanda Beasley

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by Dianne Hicks

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by Clovie Dolinger

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by George Denton Jr

George Bryant Stallings
by Edwina S. Erwin

George Matthews
by M/M Don Scarborough

Gerry Garner
by M/M Don C. Hathaway
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Gertie Harris
by Anderson Grove Baptist Ch.

Gina Dawn Oakley
by Ms. Evelyn A. Oakley

Ginnie Ruckert
by Mrs. Wyatt W. Stewart

Girdie and Earnest Clemons
by Ruby C. Carr

Gisela Mayse
by Steve Couch

Glenn and Mary Lois McDonald
by Joseph and
Judy McDonald Lachenev

Goldie Harrington
by Evelyn W. Harrington
by Frances J. Douglas
by Margaret Pierce
by Scott A. Cook
by Sheila J. Fox

Gracie Mae Evans
by Linda Hewett

Grady A. Williard, Jr.
by Mrs. Martha B. Williard

Grady Bridges, Jr.
by Donna R. Barrett

Grady P. Childers
by Mrs. Phyllis W. Childers

Grady Van Shue
by M/M Mark B. Walter

Grandchildren - Parker and Bentley
by Dan Price

Griffin Williams
by Carrie D. Pullen

H.M. Stroup
by Zeb Russell

Harold E. Smith
by Kelly M. Bost

Harriet Huskins
by Nanci Sturdivant

Harvey D. Roberts, Sr.
by M/M Harvey D. Roberts, Jr.

Haskell and Gaye Duncan
by Sylvia L. Dawson

Helen Payne
by Mildred Underwood

Henrietta Everett Adams
by Anita P. Lahr

Henry Beheler
by Karen D. Graham

Herbert Edwards
by Mrs. June B. Edwards

Herman and Florence Johnson
by M/M Herman C. Johnson

Hester and A. F. Botts
by Diana B. Baxendale

Hildith Cummings
by Louise C. Maynor

Howard Synder
by M/M Weldon D. Brown

Inez M. Hughes
by James and Dubba Lucas

Irene Wilson
by M/M Don Scarborough

Iris Beal
by Miriam McBride

Iris Lunsford
by Truett Baptist Association

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by Frances R. Baldwin

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by Charles R. Cadieu

Jack and Charlotte Wagner
by Donna Smith

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by Mrs. Beverly D. Morgan

Jack Miller
by Linda Hewett

Jack N. Warren
by Mrs. Mary A. Warren

Jack Penny
by Linda Hewett

Jack Vanderburg
by Carol R. Waters
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by Margie Gottwalt

by Mrs. Barbara Barrett
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Jackie Sparks
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Jae Byrd
by Rubye E. Conroy

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by James and Dubba Lucas

James Brown
by Mrs. Hazle J. Brown

James C. Mullis
by Jeremy Barbee

James Dennis Nowell Jr.
by M/M Earl H. Inge
by Penny Claiborne

James Edward Brown
by Mrs. Hazle J. Brown

James F. English
by Judy S. English

James Harley Stepp
by Jamie Stepp

James Kimmons
by Carol Davis

James Loehman
by Glenda C. Loehman

James Louie Oakley
by J. C. Powell
by Jerome and Kathy Ward
by Larry W. Pulliam
by Marion T. Hyler
by Leonard D. McFarling
by Frances Ward
by William L. Lovell Jr.

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by Wanda A. White

Janet Babcock
by Charles Babcock

Janet Babcock
by Charles S. Babcock

Janet Kilpatrick
by Sherry Tyer

Janice Layne Jauregui
by Anna Hayes
by Brenda L. Thompson
by Jeffrey and Jacqueline Jackson
by Jessica Ferrell
by John A. Jauregui, Jr.

Jay Barnes
by Douglas M. Harrison
by Jackie Sanders

Jay Jennings
by M/M Douglas S. Huntley

Jean Clary Bartenfeld
by Mr. Wiley G. Clary, Jr.

Jean Hare Goodwin
by Ann C. Warren
by Jerry Macon
by Marilyn H. Finch
by Mary O. Woodall
by Michael Edwards
by Sarah S. McLaurin

Jean Lange
by Mrs. Verlene D. Stephenson

Jean Styles
by Rebecca R. Williams

Jeanette Lutz Waters
by Jackie Waters

Jeff Reid
by Linda and Jerry Broadway

Jeffrey Shelton
by Bernell Shelton

Jennifer Vaughn Helms
by M/M Don Scarborough

Jeremy Michael Webb
by M/M Travis Collins
by Wanda Beasley

Jerry Dixon Worley
by Cinda T. Bass

Jerry Glunt
by Christen Bell

Jerry Jones
by M/M Gregory L. Allen

Jerry Kevin McGrady
by M/M Don Scarborough

Jerry Matthews
by Edgewood Baptist Church

Jessie Leigh Boney
by Alexandra Boney
by Jessica Boney

Jessie McEwen
by Gregory H. Coble
by Kristy Coble

Jewel B. Collis
by Sherwin Roger Collis

Jewel Oates
by Susan O. Anthony

Jim Clement
by William C. Creasy

Jim Hankins, Jr.
by M/M Don Scarborough

Jim Rogers
by Jamie Thomas
by Kimberly Chatterton

Jim Wright
by Judy Wright

Jimmie Nowell, Jr.
by Page Watson

Jimmy Gore
by Linda Hewett

Jimmy Rogers
by Dianne R. Wells
by Katie P. Gilbert
by Kimberly Chatterton
by Marcus McGill
by M/M Robert C. Dolven
by Mr. Bruce R. Davenport

Jo Duncan
by Grady S. Duncan

Joann Miller
by William and Cathey Hooper

Joe Onnie Edwards
by M/M Joe O. Edwards

Joe Price
by Seven Springs Baptist Church

Joe Whitley
by Alton Strickland
by M/M Douglas Wallace

| | | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|--|---|
| John and Betty Tew by M/M Raymond J. Warend | Katie Privette by Denise C. Privette | by Martha N. Milam | Marie Burt by Jody and Paula Hall | Mildred Efrid by Linda Hewett | Nancy Brookshire by Judson Baptist Church |
| John Gray by M/M Leonard W. Yeargan | Kaylor by Lois F. Gregory | by Mrs. Jean Ware | Marie J. Lucas by James and Dubba Lucas | Mitchell Tipett by Rebecca E. Anderson | Nancy Gray Hodgins by Jean Daniels |
| John L. Mattox by Joan K. Fenton | Kaylor Gregory by Mrs. Jenny J. Ayers | by Sherri Slade | Marilyn C. Hughes by Ron Hughes | Mothers of the Church by Faith Baptist Church | Nancy Wilson Knight by M/M Mark A. Wilson |
| John Marvin Evans by Evelyn Henson | Kenn Bowers by M/M Don Scarborough | by Steve Davis | Marilyn Henry by Donald A. Ufford | Mr. and Mrs. A.L. Stephenson by Betty S. VanGerpen | Nannie "Gnell" Harper by Barbara J. Turgeon |
| John May by Charles D. Owen High School | Kenneth / Delette Moody by Rolls Enterprises, Inc. | by William S. Woods | Marilyn Henry by M/M Thomas E. McClure | Mr. and Mrs. Charles Casstevens by Franklin Casstevens | by Betty D. Johnson |
| John Mitchell by Mrs. Verlene D. Stephenson | Kenneth D. Byers, Jr. by Wanda Beasley | by Yvonne J. McKinney | Marlene Louise Coleman by Margaret Thompson | Mr. and Mrs. Henry Johnson, Sr. by M/M Mike H. Johnson | by Ella W. Wade |
| John Nichols by Mr. Steve Nichols | Kenneth Thompson by David and Lucille Ollis | Louise and George Shore by M/M Steven E. Shore | Marlon Lowry by Ms. Beth B. Wallwork | Mr. and Mrs. Lonnie Hall by Elva Hall Tallent | by Ellen West |
| John P. McLeod by Jeanette Henley | Kenneth Wayne Wheeler by Hallie Wheeler | Louise Quick by Anne B. Collins | Mary Ballard Jennings by Harry W. Hartley | Mr. and Mrs. Nelson B. Cox by Billie C. Harrell | by Kay A. Blizzard |
| John Q. Myers by Leona Myers | Kevin Barkley Smith by Roger and Brenda McCarter | by Brenda Reaves | Mary Charles Godwin Coppage by M/M Bobby R. Holliday | Mr. and Mrs. Noel J. Abbott by M/M Tommy R. Cook | by Margaret Moore |
| John Robert Morris, Jr. by Carl and Judy Benge | Kevin Herron by Randy Riddell | by Cassandra Balant | Mary Elizabeth Prichard by Jacquelyn P. Briley | Mr. and Mrs. Woodrow E. Purvis by M/M Mike H. Johnson | by Marilyn Goerg |
| Johnnie DeHart by Mrs. Sharon Stiles | Kevin Todd by Linda Hewett | by First Baptist Church | Mary George Kelly Detweiler by Sondra B. Cummings | Mr. Bill Fuller by Dr. Patrick W. Fuller | by Mark and Susan Conway |
| Johnnie Faye Schronce by Susanne Schronce | Kip Godwin by Linda Hewett | by Jean S. Spivey | Mary Grace by Clovie Dolinger | Mr. Claude F. Pickler by Daphine P. Pickler | by Mary Best Reichard |
| Johnny Gore by M/M Gregory D. Edens | Lambeth S. "Penny" Long & Kathleen C. Long by Linda L. Dixon | by Joanna H. Dempsey | Mary Hinkle Doby by M/M Mark Doby | Mr. H.B. Todd by Linda Hewett | by Mrs. Bess H. Hooks |
| Johnny Granville Walls by Lloyd D. Sain | Lanie Cribb by Cribb's Detailing | by Marlene Lloyd | Mary Jane Owens by M/M James D. Pullium | Mr. Jimmy A. Thompson by Daphine P. Pickler | by Nannie Savoie |
| Johnny Gray by Mrs. Blenda Braswell | Lee Thomas by Mrs. Ann Thomas | by M/M Joseph T. Lawrence | Mary Smith by Donna Smith | Mr. Larry McDonald by Teresa Perdue | Nannie Lee Spencer Beck by Vera B. Davis |
| Jon Munday by Melinda Holland | Leon Yates by Mrs. Carol S. Fogleman | by M/M Robert B. Gilleland | Mary Snipes by M/M Steve Barrett | Mr. Ray Pyles by Teresa Perdue | |
| Jonathan Munday by Judy M. Whisnant | Letha Huffman by Alan Millhauser | by M/M Ron Huber | Mary W. Brock by M/M Philip D. Bailey | Mr. Tim R. Harwood by Daphine P. Pickler | Neil E. Ladtkow by Mrs. Neil E. Ladtkow |
| by Melissa Searcy | by Angela E. Atkins | by Mrs. Mollie C. Slate | Matthew Swearingen by M/M Don Scarborough | Mrs. Ashe Dew by Pattie T. Pugh | Nick Reeves by Katie F. Reeves |
| by Kathryn T. White | by Donna W. Cox | by Eileen D. Harrington | Mattie Lynch by M/M Claude Braddy, Jr. | Mrs. Birty Jones Mackey by Mrs. Isabel M. Cole | Norma Jean Magee by Elizabeth K. Foshee |
| by Phyllis M. Wilkinson | by Karen F. Allen | by Rhonda H. Ennis | Maxine Irby by Stephanie Burgos | Mrs. Charlotte Beck by Ann Phillips | Norma Mauney by Sylvia S. Nicks |
| by Wanda K. Johnson | by M/M Thomas L. North, Sr. | Luanne Lanier by M/M Ted Lanier | Maxine Myers by Adele Myers | Mrs. Clarice Page by Virginia M. Grantham | Olena Grooms by M/M Roy D. Grooms |
| Joseph Murray by James Murray | by Ann Corirossi | Lucia Jones by Jan H. Pennell | by Cy and Joni Brooks | Mrs. Elwyn Flury by Linda L. Nanney | Pamela McKinney by Ann M. Brock |
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| Joshua Ryan Smith by M/M Roger W. Smith | Lillian Brigman by Arey Rash | Luke Rogers by Geraldine R. Bebb | by Lisa Caddell | Mrs. Jane Crump by M/M Mark B. Walter | Patricia Shuler by Andy Painter |
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| Judy Ann Pruitt by Linda Hewett | Lorraine Parker Millican by Joanne Thompson | M. Earline Brown by Brenda H. Lee | Melissa Anne Bell by Peggy H. Needham | Mrs. Madeline Shanks by M/M Michael H. Walters | by Peaks Church |
| Julia Nantz by Mrs. Frances Beeson | Lossie Marshburn by David Marshburn | Maggie Rae Young by Michael & Martha McKinney | Melvin "Bud" Walker by Sandra Walker | Mrs. Margie Mooney by Supply Baptist Church | Patricia Turpin by Robin F. Turpin |
| June and Leonard Broughman by Linda Broughman | Louie and Connie Oakley y Sheena B. Sigmon | Marcus and Lucille Hatley by M/M L. Douglas Burgess | Merton Strickler by Gwendolyn Strickler | Mrs. Mary P. Pickler by Daphine P. Pickler | Paul and Elizabeth Cribb by Suzanne C. Harton |
| June Parker by Melissa Herron | Louie Dellinger by Larry and Vickie Homesley | Margaret (Peggy) Rogers by Mrs. Barbara S. McKenzie | Michael Stephen Hall by Deborah D. Hall | Mrs. Merion Stanback by Ms. Rosa A. Stanback | Paul Capell by Joseph V. Smith |
| Kady Elder by Debbie Childers | Louie Hagan by Geraldine H. Johnston | by Sylvia C. Adcock | Michelle Lakey Little by Edna Bond | Mrs. Nancy Matheney by Geraldine W. Steele | Paul Jordan Bennett by Louvene Cooper |
| Kathleen C. Long by Linda L. Dixon | Louie Oakley by Alice E. Plemmons | Margaret Capton Robertson by Mrs. Peggy C. Allen | Mike Bradley by Eugene Walker Carriker | | Paul Key by Marilyn J. Humphrey |
| Katie King by Sam and Kathy West | by Barbara J. Renn | Margaret Jones by Rose Clark-Hunt | Mike King by M/M Donald T. Robinson | | Pauline Thorne by Mrs. Frances Beeson |
| | by Charles Cooper | Margaret L. Williams by M/M Reuben J. Lisenbee | | | Peggy Cassada by M/M Don B. George |
| | by J.C. Watson | Margaret Patterson Rogers by Flora B. Patterson | | | Peggy Cecil by Ellen L. Robinson |
| | | by Kenneth R. Foster | | | Peggy Flowers by Alecia Zucker |
| | | by Linda S. Pruitt | | | Peggy Sue Benge by Carl and Judy Benge |
| | | Margaret Rodgers by Patricia A. Lynn | | | Peggy Y. Zimmerman by Ted R. Zimmerman |
| | | Margie McGinnis by Janet C. Nelson | | | |
| | | Marguerite Gray by June T. Mann | | | |
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Renee Adams
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Steve Christian
by M/M Don B. George

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by M/M Randy M. Beal

Stuart Mullen
by M/M Randy M. Beal

Sue Hubbard
by Bob Haynes

Tabitha Odell
by Shelba J. Jones

Terry Garrison
by M/M Don Scarborough

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by Wanda T. Stephens

Thomas George McCuniff
by M/M Robert H. Holliday, Jr.

Thomas Sanders
by Diane F. Featherston

Tink Dixon
by Crystal Thaggard

Tommy Cooper
by M/M Don Scarborough

Tommy Lashley
by Linda Hewett

Troyene Cowick
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Truett and Barbara Moore
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by Mary J. Edwards
by Mr. Charles R. Beal
by Mrs. Josie W. Douglas
by Pam Williams

Virginia Beth Ellington

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Vivian Burress
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Making News Every Day Around the State



Mills Home in Thomasville Families go on mission together

Central Baptist Church in Wendell volunteers came to Mills Home to help with campus projects. It was an opportunity for families with their own children to be a part of a local missions trip.



Lindsay Home in Zionville Student teaches cake decorating

High School student Brooklyn Edminsten, who also operates Sprinkles Cakery, gave cake decorating lessons to the ladies at Lindsay Home. Lindsay is home to intellectually/developmentally disabled adults.



Cameron Boys Camp in Cameron Boys tackle Cape Fear River

In May, the boys from Cameron Boys Camp Trailblazers group embarked on a short river trip on the Cape Fear. Trips give boys and their chiefs on opportunity to bond and learn team-building skills.



Campers on Mission Campers serve at Odum Home

Campers on Mission volunteers Robert and Jan Hobdy and Robert and Nancy Maple sorted Food Roundup collections at Odum Home in Pembroke. Campers serve at BCH locations across the state.



BCH Foster/Adopt Ministry Statewide team meets and plans

The majority of BCH's foster care and adoption team gathered on June 22 to continue planning for the ministry's continued growth. BCH has trained and licensed 110 couples as foster parents.



Providence Baptist in Harrisburg Youth have missions day at BCH

The Impact Student Ministry from Providence Baptist went on mission at Mills Home. They helped throughout the campus including Greater Vision Outreach sorting through donated items.



Broyhill Home in Clyde Children return to Dollywood

After not being able to engage in activities last year due to the pandemic, children from Broyhill Home enjoyed a recent day of fun at Dollywood. Donors help make the annual trip possible.



Mount Zion Baptist in Liberty Church shows its support

BCH Director of Communications Blake Ragsdale brought back 14 bags of stuffed animals from Mount Zion Baptist Church where he spoke. The church also collected a generous love offering.



Weekday Education in Thomasville Bubble day delights children

Children enjoyed a variety of themed Summer days at Weekday Education's centers. Boys and girls recently participated in "Bubble Day" where they were in awe of the giant bubbles staff created.

Can we help? Many ministries beating with one heart.

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2. Central Area Family Services
Regina Keener, Dir., 336-474-1200
3. Eastern Area Family Services
Christopher Allabaugh, Dir., 252-522-0811
www.kennedyhome.org
4. Odum Home
Kathy Locklear, Res. Mgr., 910-521-3433
www.odumhome.org
5. Cameron Boys Camp
Drew Scott, Dir., 910-245-4034
www.cameronboyscamp.org
6. Camp Duncan for Girls
Brad Gearhart, Dir., 910-944-3077
www.campduncanNC.org
7. Family Foster Care
Bob McCleary, 828-627-9254
www.bchfostercare.org
8. Christian Adoption Services
Kevin Qualls, Dir., 704-847-0038
www.christianadopt.org
9. Weekday Education
Brooke Child, Dir., 336-474-1201
10. Tucker Greater Vision Ministry
Sara Becker, Mgr., 336-687.6384
11. HOMEBASE at W. Carolina University
Jim Dean, Dir., 828-293-4660
12. Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities
Tara Sessoms, Dir., 336-474-1259
www.hereismyhome.org
13. NC Baptist Aging Ministry
Sandy Gregory, Dir., 336-474-1221
www.ncbam.org
14. Good Shepherd Children's Home in Guatemala
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New scrapbook project set for this Homecoming

Alumni recount tales from days at Mills Home

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

This column may not reach all of our alumni by Homecoming on July 30-August 1, but it will reach many. So, we hope as many as possible take part in this great project conducted by **Ruth Berndt Hodges**. Ruth will be heading up the creation of a special Homecoming album/scrapbook on site in the gym over the weekend. She is asking that alumni bring a photo or two of themselves (and siblings if possible) as children and a current photo. Ruth will place them together in the scrapbook. She will be stationed in an noticeable spot in the gym working as alumni bring in their photos. The resulting scrapbook will be put on display at the Mitchell Museum for all to see. Please join us in the fun of this fantastic project. And also please remember to take your items for the Silent Auction to the gym when you arrive for Homecoming.

We are saddened to report three deaths. **Beverly Maiden Pacheco** passed away at her home June 3 (born 12/23/1965). **Ruby Hauser Wooten** died on June 26. And **Iola Batts Rus** died on July 3, 2021. We will pass on more information in the next column.

We received a nice email from a lady from Trinity Baptist Church of Raleigh. She is keenly interested in our Silent Auction, so she said she wanted to contribute some of her "home-made" photographic note cards. True to her word, those beautifully made and beautifully packaged cards arrived soon thereafter. Look for them at the Silent Auction. We honor the lady's request to remain anonymous.

In a note on the Mills Home Memories Facebook page, **Elizabeth Cooley Bramlet** asked for prayers on her behalf. She explained that she had been hospitalized with transverse myelitis on June 28. She and her husband Barry are thankful one prayer has been answered and she has been placed at the Shepherd Spine Center in Atlanta. They feel God has a purpose and plan for them during this trial. She sends her gratitude to those who have been in prayer and support for her and her family.

We thank **Geneva Martinez Bourgeois** for her update. Geneva entered Mills Home (MH) from Greensboro in 1956 with siblings **Clem, Terrie, Nick, Felix and Nancy**. She graduated in '67. Her active campus life included activities at the church and in the gym and valley. She was also very active at Thomasville High School (THS), especially enjoying being on the girls' basketball team. After leaving MH, Geneva completed a career in the US Air Force. Today she is still "out in the work world" serving the ladies of Litcher, LA as a cosmetologist. She has two offspring, **Peggy Padgent and Christie Gonyea**; three grandchildren, **Amanda, Joshua, and Conrad**; and one great grandson, **Grayson**. She comes as often as possible from such a long distance to our Homecoming and thoroughly enjoys visiting with her old friends.

And more thanks to **Bobby Gene Hendricks** who entered MH in 1939 from Cleveland County and graduated in 1954. Living out in Nevada makes it difficult for him to come back home very often but when he does, it is a great pleasure for him to see old friends and share stories about their mischievous lives at MH. Activities he enjoyed were singing in the choir, playing basketball and baseball for MH, and playing football for THS. Being such an athlete, of course, he also enjoyed pickup games and socializing in the valley, gym, and swimming pool. He is married to **Dina** with whom he has three children, seven grandchildren, and one great grandchild. He is retired from a career as MCPO, US Navy.

James Byrd is one of our many alumni who still live in the great town of Thomasville. Born in Wilkes County, James entered MH with **Ola Mae and Robert** in 1963 and he graduated in 1969. An important part of his life at MH was at the swimming pool where he took the junior and senior life saving courses and served as a lifeguard for three years. He admits he was happy to dodge the work down on the farm and transporting watermelons from Walburg. He also very much enjoyed being part of the airplane club begun by **Mr. Tom**

Savage, one of the social workers. Mr. Savage taught them how to build their special planes and fly them. This airplane hobby gave James a great sense of accomplishment. At THS, he loved playing on the football team, especially the year the team made it to the state championship. Mills Home friends on the team with him were **Ray Fortenberry and Jack Wilcox**. One of his best Homecomings was the year two special friends, **Dave Step and Lewis Foster**, returned.

After high school, James attended Davidson Community College and earned a one-year degree in drafting and two-year degree in machining. He then worked in several small shops before working for Westinghouse in 1987. In 2015, he retired from Simmons Energy. James and his wife **Barbara Leonard** have two offspring and three grandchildren. His family fills their summer months with things they enjoy most: camping, salt-water fishing, and gardening.

We are spotlighting Mike Clay this month as one of the people who have given so much time to serving the Alumni Council. We learned a lot when we recently cornered him after a meeting in June. He is married to a special lady named **Sandy**, a nurse who has three children and seven grandchildren. He thoroughly loves being married and becoming an instant father and grandfather. That fact is made quite clear by the photos that are posted on Facebook showing the great activities he has shared with his grandchildren. Mike entered MH in 1976 with brothers **Rockie and Jeff**. He fit beautifully into MH life by participating in softball, boy scouts, and campus duties, especially serving as lifeguard for three years.

Out of five cottages that he lived in during those years, Hutchinson, York, Whitty, Biggs, and Craver, he most loved living at Hutchinson and Craver. Special house parents at those cottages were **Estelle Crouch** and co-worker dietitian **Lugenia Pinnix and Bill and Frances Caudle**.

After finishing high school, he served his country for six years in the US Navy. He thoroughly

enjoyed the places he was able to visit through his military experiences. The most special among those were the interesting Biblical sites of Israel, the Holy Land. He also enjoyed the beauties of Italy. Mike did not share any "rambunctious campus" stories, but he said something humorous or noteworthy happened about every day. Maybe the most meaningful experience of his life at MH was the Christmas dinner that was held at the Craver Cottage his last year on campus. All the boys were lucky to have jobs off campus and they used some of their hard-earned money to purchase Christmas gifts for every person in the cottage. He fondly remembers his job working at the Western Sizzlin' Steakhouse because of the money it provided him to use for that special Christmas.

Joyce Peek Rogers ('53-'63) currently lives at 4509 Diplomat Dr., Tampa, FL 33613. A note from her reads: "I first entered Mills Home in 1953 along with my siblings **Lana and Locke**. Lana was assigned to Fleming Cottage and Locke was assigned to Hutchinson with **Ms. Crouch** who was the matron. I was assigned to the Biggs Cottage where **Ms. Imogene Wilson** was my matron and **Ms. Serena Walker** was the dietician. I stayed in Biggs Cottage for nearly eight years. Ms. Imogene was a very caring and supportive houseparent who kept everything organized and communicated clearly what was expected of us. We had a daily routine which usually began with morning devotions, followed by breakfast. After breakfast, we would ready ourselves for school and run for the bus. When we returned from school, we would complete our assigned chores. Having these daily routines and chores taught me how to efficiently keep house. Some of the other experiences I enjoyed were piano lessons, singing in church choir, and attending Girls' Auxiliary. While living at MH I made



many friends to whom I am still connected."

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

Alumni Fall Beach Retreat is set for Oct. 8, 9, & 10

A word of thanks and blessings from Tracy Pearson

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

We are all excited about going to the beach cottage this coming October 8, 9 and 10. Let's all keep praying that we will be able to go. So far these are the ones who are planning to attend: **Katie Parker, Debbie and Gary Caulder, Becky and John Thompson, Mary Lee Etheridge Feige, Donna and Dave Duty, Patsy Hensley, Debra and David Stallings, Alice Sisk and husband, Buddy and Dana Sisk, Hugh Kirkman, Joyce Surbaugh.** Some will be sleeping at other places, but all will be with the group for meals and the great fellowship. We will let you know the cost after we see how many sign up.

Those attending can plan to arrive between 1:00-2:00 p.m. on Oct. 8. That's plenty of time to get settled in, enjoy the outdoors, and be set for a spaghetti and salad bar dinner about 7:00 that night.

Remember, bring delicious "homemade" desserts to share along with several 2-litre drinks. I hope some will bring crafts for the group to do. Also, be sure to bring your bed linens, towels, etc.

Please let me know if you are planning to attend so we can plan for enough food. **Debbie Caulder** and I will be doing the cooking. But we will need everyone to help clean up after the meals. You will be having six meals with us closing out with "left overs" for Sunday lunch and then cleaning the whole cottage before we leave at 2:00 Sunday afternoon.

Hugh Kirkman sent a note about his cottage going to the beach in the summer of 1976. He writes: "**Becky and John** and their two sons were invited to go help out with **Mrs. Cribb's** CCB boys. I remember **Mrs. Helen Hardison** really knew how to fry chicken. After supper one night, we all took a long walk down the beach. I got sunburned for the first time in my life that week when we went swimming in the ocean and sound. **John Russ**, son of **Doris and Vance Russ**, was our lifeguard. It was very rough one day and that scared me. John had

to save my brother **Earl Kirkman**. We both passed our swim test for the pool when we got back to campus. That way, we could swim in the deep end. I really appreciate John Russ for helping us."

While I served at Kennedy Home (KH), I loved to assist the lifeguard at the pool when the lifeguard couldn't be there. **Mr. Bill Beacham** and I took senior life saving together and had a blast.

In past columns, I shared ways you could help KH cottage parents today. One example was for Sunday school classes to buy food gift cards and send for the cottages to use. I received word that another church collected paper products for a whole month and took them to the campus. Another idea on how you can help out is to have the boys and girls in your VBS bring their mission offering and designate it for the Baptist Children's Homes. Also, conduct a school supply drive to help provide all that is needed.

I received a note from **Dr. Michael Schwalm** and **Dr. Mark Thompson** of the Centerview Baptist Church of Jacksonville where Becky was organist and I was minister of senior adults and church pianist for six years. They write to share how the children in Centerview brought a "love gift" for Kennedy Home every night of their VBS. Dr. Thompson said it was their mission focus for the week. He also wrote that during the mission rotation each day, students brought in laundry and school supplies. The children of Centerview brought in a total of \$2,000 and boxes of supplies. Senior Pastor Dr. Schwalm, took the gifts to KH and met some of the folks there.

Dr. Schwalm wrote that KH is a marvelous facility. He also informed me that **Pastor Wade Parker** is now working for the Children's Homes as Eastern Area Development Director.

The following letter comes from KH alum **Tracy L. Pearson**, USN, Ret, Disabled, American Veteran. He asks that KH alumni "please be in touch" with him. His email

is tracypearson96@yahoo.com or you can mail him at 4605 Battery Range, North Charleston, SC 29420.

Tracy begins by writing: "I was blessed by God who allowed me the honor of living at KH in Adylett Davis Cottage with **Mr. and Mrs. Bill Beacham** from 1978-1981. This is the first time I have ever written for your column. First let me express my thanks for everything you and your predecessors have done over the many years writing for *C&C*. I have been an avid follower and fan of this paper for years. The people who write for this wonderful publication are truly *God sent*."

"I am writing my letter hoping that I will be able to reconnect with anyone I was in care with during the years I was at KH. Due to some medical issues, my memory is not like it was. Here are some of the names I remember: **Daryl Mervin, Norman and Tom Mitchell, Buddy, Teresa and Missy Brown, and Stephanie Hemby.** Please let everyone know that I am interested in re-connecting with *anyone* who was in care when I was there.

"My time at KH was truly the best time of my life. I lived with other children who I grew to love and think of as my second family. My life prior to KH was a mess, and I was truly on the road to ruin. If it had not been for a very special probation officer, **Mr. Steve Kenny**, I would have gone to Dobb's Reform School. He talked with folks at KH and they accepted me and I came to live there. Since that day, I have, through God's help, become a positive, productive part of society. Although the road has not always been sunshine and candy and there have been many times that my walk with God strayed off His path, but He always came and found me. Just like the wonderful *shepherd* He is, He brought me back *to the fold*. And for that, I am eternally grateful.

"I won't bore you or your readers with my life story. Let's just say, I am very happy with most of it. I can honestly say that if it was not for God, my life would be *very*

different from what it is today. So, if you would be so kind, I would love to hear from anyone that I mentioned above or anyone else that was at KH from 1978-1981 and remembers me. I am deeply grateful for **Mr. Steve Penny and Betty and Bill Beacham**, my brothers and sisters that were in care while I was at KH, and to Baptist Children's Homes.

"May God bless you all and the children in care today. I'd like to tell them that no matter who you are, where you've come from, the life that you've lived so far, or how dark and painful things may be, there will always be someone that will love you—God and all those who serve at KH and BCH's other facilities.

"In closing, I challenge all past residents to remember their time in care and send your story to John. Let's keep this ministry going strong. For a long time, I had forgotten, but I will *never* let that happen again. Peace be with you all!"

Eward Gaston Pait recalls mowing grass at KH '66-'69. He writes: "Those were the days. We even mowed the grass in the meadow and around the old Skeeter Hut. There was a lot of grass to be mowed behind the Bunker Cottage."

Walter Sisk remembers going to the barn at sun up and mowing all day, returning when the campus lights came on. **Mr. Frank Dupree** was in charge of campus beautification in the 70s with his wife, **Julia**. I still keep up with their son, **Phillip**, on Facebook all the time.

Let's all remember the story in Luke 18:15 when children were brought to Jesus. He declared: "*Let the little children come to me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God.*"

Please send your stories and accounts to me so I can share them in "our" column. Remember, Becky

and I love you and always will. Come see us! – jt



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

The birds' chorus calls all to rejoice and be grateful

By **Jim Edminson**, Editor

I hear children's voices counting from the other room. Stuart pops his head around the corner, "Papa, do you know how many birds you have in your house?"

Last July, our family gathered to celebrate Jenny's and Donald's wedding, and my son's family bunked with us in Lexington. The extreme heat kept us indoors for large parts of the day, and make-your-own-fun is a forte of my Texas grands. Along with constructing monster hot wheel car race tracks down the stairs and building Lego masterpieces, they also explored closets, asked questions, told jokes, and counted birds.

"I do not know, Stuart. There are lots, huh?"

"So many birds! We counted 117," he says

"And that's just the pictures, it's not including the statues of birds," reminds Roger.

"Let's go count those too," calls Maggie, already heading out of the room.

Stuart hangs back long enough to ask me, "Why do you have such a lot of birds around here?" Not waiting for an answer, he shrugs and joins his siblings.

I ponder Stuart's query. Why do Kathy and I have such a large collection of bird paintings, sketches, collages, "statues," plates, and planters? I would not have thought we had an unusual lot of birds in the house. But we do. The answer, surely, begins with my wife.

"Look at the birds in the sky! They don't plant or harvest. They don't even store grain in barns. Yet your Father in heaven takes care of them."

One of Kathy's favorite expressions is "No worries." I trace it to her love of A.A. Milne's *The Adventures of Winnie the Pooh*. That bear takes life as it comes, and with his motley collection of friends, he finds pleasure (and learns lessons) in the Hundred-Acre Wood.

One of my wife's favorite rituals is strolling in our wooded backyard in the first light of morning, listening to the "dawn chorus"—the birds' welcome song for daybreak. When I am up that early, I watch her as she faces upward, smiling at the show. I know that her heart is singing, too.

Any wonder, I think, that she is drawn to decorations and artwork with bird motifs? They extend her pleasure of nature and embody a joyful life. Maybe there are reminders in her 117 birds of the simple goodness God spills out for His creation every day.

"Look at the birds in the sky! They don't plant or harvest. They don't even store grain in barns. Yet your Father in heaven takes care of them."

Not too many days ago, Kathy and I stood on the porch sipping coffee (Carolina bluebirds on the mugs, of course), listening to a heavy rainstorm. Since rain has been sparse, as soon as we heard it coming, we headed outside to watch with thanksgiving. The erratic slant of the showers, first this way and then that, mingled with the breezy gusts that rustled the leaves and swayed the pines. Throughout the display, birds serenaded, pouring forth a symphony of gladness.

"It's amazing," I wonder aloud, "how the birds sing even in the storm."

"Rejoicing, right?" Kathy responds, looking up so the rain can blow onto her face.

Yes, rejoicing. The dryness over the past weeks has weighed heavy day after day now to be replaced by the splashing of water on the once dry earth.

"Look at the birds in the sky! They don't plant or harvest. They don't even store grain in barns. Yet your Father in heaven takes care of them."


Surely such goodness touches the hearts of everyone, all creation, and, united, a thanksgiving rises up for this gift of rain, cooling the ground and comforting the spirit. But just in case we humans miss it, the birds call attention to the outpouring with their loud and exuberant song.

I'm glad we have 117 birds in our house. I'm glad Stuart and company have given me an exact number for which to be grateful. Sometimes, in my day to day striving, I forget the bounty the Creator showers on His creation. But the birds' chorus calls me to look up and slow down, to rejoice with my whole heart for all that I am granted every minute of my day.

Inside, the many birds remind me of this good lesson. Outside, I listen for the birds and rejoice.



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



"I don't feel like I would've gotten

SAVED

if not for Odum Home."

Samantha

from Baptist Children's Homes'
Odum Home in Pembroke

Samantha came to Baptist Children's Homes four years ago from a traumatic past. Here, she graduated high school and has achieved her dream of attending college. Most of all, she heard the Gospel and accepted Christ through the support of NC Baptists.

Invite a speaker to share these stories of hope with your church.

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