

Charity & Children

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

Jeremy Canipe makes helping children a priority. (Page 6) Begin planning for Food Roundup. (Page 8)

Betsy Bolick: She may be small, but her God is big!

By Jim Edminson, Editor

The ambulance's engine raced while parked outside waiting for its small passenger. The infant's twin was moved to the nursery while nurses and doctors worked to save the baby's life.

"I was born with sacral agenesis," 32-year-old Betsy Bolick recounts. "It is a rare birth defect. I was missing three parts of my lower sacrum. I had a dysfunctional bladder. My feet were paralyzed. I was born with no calf muscles and my face was misshapened. It was very bad. My doctor feared the worse and insisted on going with me in the ambulance. Unsure I would survive the ride, he did not want me to die alone."

But Betsy did survive. She testifies that God did not just "allow" her to live or only "extend my life." She believes God always had a plan. She says it is her calling to be a "megaphone declaring His grace and mercy."

Betsy stopped counting the surgeries she endured as a child after the number reached ten. Doctors corrected her club foot, performed surgery on her jaw, and worked tirelessly to fix her bladder. Beside her — supporting her — have always been her parents, her twin sister, and her other two siblings.

Her story unfolds sitting across from Dr. Michael C. Blackwell as they record an episode of the podcast "*It's a family matter.*"

(Continued on pg 3.)



Lonely, but never alone

By Michael C. Blackwell, President/CEO

The irises my mother planted in the yard of my childhood home are, in my mind, forever in bloom. I still hear the ending-shift whistle at the mill just a short distance away — it often coincided with mother’s call to dinner. My parents made sure that I played on the mill-sponsored Little League team and I was an active Boy Scout. My memories of growing up and playing along Lander Avenue in Gastonia are joyful.

Not far from our home was the church my family attended and where my father led the choir. I was active at Flint-Groves Baptist Church from the time I crawled to the day I moved my membership to serve my first church. I was a member of “cradle roll” department and was led to the Lord by Pastor Love Dixon when I was eight years old. I was ordained and licensed to preach at Flint-Groves. It was here that my mother and father helped plant deep in my heart a love for Jesus and His church.

An only child, I was fortunate to be the center of Viola’s and Clitus’ world. My mother encouraged me, and helped build a strong self-esteem within me. People often compliment me on my voice. Well, that is both a gift from God and from my father, who had a deep baritone voice. Although he spent 32 years as a life insurance

salesman, his great love was music and voice. On Sunday afternoons, he sat me down in front of a Wollensak tape recorder and I practiced diction and delivery. He would play back the recordings as we listened and he critiqued.

I think of my parents often and miss them today. But they are never far from me. They helped shape me into the person I am today. I am thier heir. I am a living legacy to who they were and will always be.

Paul wrote in the Book of Romans (8:16-17): “The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ.”

Being heirs brings certainty, confidence in who we are and what our future holds. As an heir, we are entitled to all that God offers. Through the Spirit, we share with God in

this life both the good times and times of suffering. We are never alone. The Spirit assures us He is always with us. The Spirit is the proof that God will never forsake His children in this world or the world to come.

This year, I turn 78 years old. Now more than ever, I enjoy regular moments of solitude. It is in these quiet moments that I am drawn closer to God — like a child who crawls up into the lap of a loving father. I feel the distance between God and me lessen. It is as if His embrace is tightening around me and one day there will be no more gap and I will share in His glory forever.



Mission: sharing hope . . . changing lives
Vision: To provide the highest quality of Christian services to children, adults and families in a caring culture of measurable excellence

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

Bolick's "Small Enough Ministries" brings big message

By Jim Edminson, Editor
(Continued from pg 1.)



The podcast "*It's a family matter.*" is a production of Baptist Children's Homes and hosted by BCH president/CEO Michael C. Blackwell.

"I spent much of my young childhood believing I was normal," Bolick tells Blackwell. "I had no idea that I was different. I felt loved. My dad called me his little princess. And I believed it. But one night, my family and I were in Walmart and a little girl tapped me on the shoulder and asked, 'What's wrong with you?' I was six years old."

Today, Bolick stands four feet, eight and a half inches tall. She says that during much of her young life she wondered if God messed up in creating her — wondering why she was so flawed, deformed, or "belonged in a circus."

"In my freshman year in high school, a young man said some hurtful words to me and I ran to the bathroom, fell on the floor and cried out to the Lord," she recalls. "I screamed, 'What do you want from me? You've taken everything. What do you want?'"

She says the voice was clear and the answer was powerful, as her Lord replied, "I want you. I want all of you. I want every piece of you, every part that I've created."

"I realized then that I was not a circus clown or a deformed little girl, but I am the daughter of the King," she says. "In those moments, I moved from the darkness into a marvelous light."

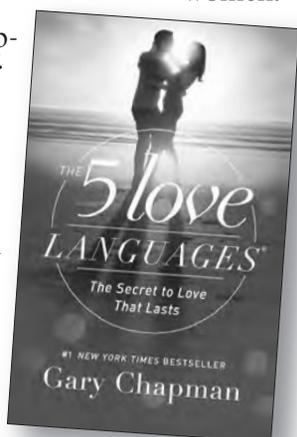
Betsy's mom is a nurse and was her daughter's full-time caregiver when Betsy was a child. One particularly hard day, grasping for hope, her mom prayed for her two-year-old, "Lord, would you do a great work in Betsy's life? Will you display your mighty works in her?"

"God began a stirring in my family's hearts," Bolick says. "He assured them He had placed a purpose in my life."

Bolick entered college and was encouraged to be in ministry. "I started asking God, 'What do you want to do through me?'"

She says the Lord answered, "I made you small but I am more than enough. I want you in your smallness to make me big to a lost and dying world. You will be my megaphone — a testament to my great and mighty works."

And so Betsy Bolick began *Small Enough Ministries*. Her purpose is to love, lead, teach, and equip women to embrace the hope and redemption only found in Jesus.



Small Enough Ministries founder Betsy Bolick is the guest of Dr. Michael C. Blackwell's podcast "*It's a family matter.*" Bolick and Dr. Blackwell recorded two episodes at the end of last year. The first goes live on March 30 and the second will go live two weeks later on April 13. Blackwell began the podcast in June 2019. Since its beginning, 22 podcasts have been produced. Learn more about Bolick at www.besmallenough.org.

Her twin sister is an assistant women's soccer coach at Appalachian University in Boone. She invited Bolick to start a women's Bible study.

"She told me that she would bring the athletes if I opened the Word," Bolick remembers. "She said, 'You know God made you small and that He is enough. Would you make Him big to these women?'"

Seven athletes received Christ. Her ministry has extended to conferences and now she is on another college campus teaching women about Jesus.

"He has done so much in my brokenness," Bolick says fighting back tears. "I'm so grateful that God has allowed me to walk this road because I know Him deeper, I love Him more."

Listen now:

In January 2020, "*It's a family matter*" featured a five-part series with Dr. Gary Chapman — author of "*The Five Love Languages.*" The first episode takes a close look at the nature of each love language.

In the second episode, Dr. Chapman and Dr. Blackwell discuss how God connects people through the love language of "quality time." The third episode explores "acts of service" and the fourth episode covers "the love language of gifts."

In the final episode with Dr. Chapman, he

and Dr. Blackwell investigate the importance of physical touch.

To hear the five Chapman episodes or Betsy Bolick's episodes, visit www.bchblog.org/podcast or go to your favorite podcast provider and subscribe to "*It's a family matter.*" There is no cost.



Floyd Burton celebrates 100 years

President/CEO Michael C. Blackwell attended the birthday celebration for centenarian Burton held at First Baptist Church of Salisbury on December 30. Burton is a personal friend of Dr. Blackwell and a longtime supporter of Baptist Children's Homes.

Don't miss the opportunity to change a life forever

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

“Nothing is worse than missing an opportunity that could change a life.”

As I ponder these words, I am taken back to the groundbreaking ceremony on the Mills Home campus in June 2016. Baptist Children's Homes (BCH) was again expanding its state-wide outreach through *The Bob and Carolyn Tucker Greater Vision Outreach Ministry Center*. Bob and Carolyn have an amazing rich history of putting action to their faith. Through their commitment to give back, they have significantly impacted Kingdom building.

The Tucker family made an initial commitment of \$1 million dollars to birth the dream of this new outreach into a reality. The groundbreaking ceremony marked the beginning of construction of the Center's new home.

Near the conclusion of the program, BCH president/CEO Dr. Michael C. Blackwell asked Bob Tucker if he would like to share any words. Rising to the microphone, Mr. Tucker shocked all in attendance when he made an impromptu announcement: “I will in addition match everything you raise up to a half million dollars.”

The crowd rose to their feet in appreciation of the founder of Shoe Show for this generous and bold gesture.

Mr. Tucker went on humbly sharing from his heart that his commitment and purpose behind the additional support grew from an experience he and Carolyn had during a trip to New York years earlier.

“There was an old man with a beard outside of our hotel,” Bob recalled. “I walked over and handed him \$10. I always wondered if I had given him enough. I had that same feeling today when I arrived. I wanted to do more.”

And he did!

This past year, *The Bob and Carolyn Tucker Greater Vision Outreach Ministry Center* impacted 71,946 people.

“Nothing is worse than missing an opportunity that could change a life.”

Scripture reminds us of the many opportunities all around us. Clearly, we are challenged to help change a life.

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.” – Matthew 25:35-36 (NIV)

What if Bob and Carolyn had missed this opportunity? Thousands would have gone hungry. Hundreds of children would not have the clothes and school supplies they needed. Families would not have received the counseling they needed to begin the journey toward self-sufficiency. But even more important than their physical needs, they would not have experienced the Gospel of Matthew lived out in their lives.

Hallie Pegram was 103 years old during this visit. I had enjoyed many special visits with Hallie over the years. (Only recently did she pass at age 106.) As we visited that day, I could tell she had something she wanted to share with me. She had met

with her financial advisor who had shared with her that she was going to need to discontinue her support to BCH. But she looked at me with heartfelt compassion and declared, “I cannot quit giving to my Children's Home.”

(Understand as I share Hallie's story, I am not advising you to disregard the advice of a financial advisor. I only want to convey

Hallie's heart and commitment to help others.)

Hallie continued to send her gifts of love. This past week, I received confirmation Hallie had included us in her last will and testament. *What if Hallie had missed the opportunity to change a life?* Thousands upon thousands of children over the years would not have found a safe place where they could experience hope and healing. They would not have experienced the Gospel of Matthew lived out in their lives.

“Nothing is worse than missing an opportunity that could change a life.”

God recently gave me the opportunity to visit a dear lady who began to share with me why she no longer attended church. She talked about a very lonely time in her life following the death of her husband. Her church was there in the beginning and then in her words “forgot about me.” Our North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry (NCBAM) encounters hundreds of calls each month from frail aging who are lost in their loneliness — thinking no one cares. When these calls come, we are able to connect them with compassionate caring people.

Last year, one of our NCBAM volunteers began to visit an 80-year-old lady who was very lonely and needed transportation. After a few months of visiting, the volunteer began to share how her faith had changed her life. This precious lady who had felt hopeless asked Jesus into her heart. A life was changed!

What if our NCBAM ministry was a missed opportunity? What if Dr. Blackwell had not had the vision to partner with the Baptist State Convention to care for the needs of the aging across the state. Last year, 8,518 senior adults in need would not have experienced the Gospel of Matthew lived out in their lives.

“Nothing is worse than missing an opportunity that could change a life.”

There are many opportunities to change lives all around us. I pray they will not be missed opportunities, for me or for you. In following God's direction to care for the “least of these,” not only is the life of the one receiving the cup of water changed, our lives are changed.

There are so many needs! I invite you to follow the example of these faithful and don't let those whose lives you can touch be missed opportunities!



I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink.



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

“Can I have the WHITE SHOES with bows?”

Although many pretty shoes catch Jessie’s attention, the white shoes with bows are her dream shoes! But everything feels like a dream since coming to Baptist Children’s Homes. Before, Jessie had felt invisible living with her mom and dad. She often felt they were more concerned about running out of alcohol than buying clothes for her to wear or having food for her to eat. Her dreams then were only nightmares.

Jessie now has nice clothes. There is plenty to eat — even snacks. Her cottage is clean and neat. And today she is shopping for an Easter dress and shoes — the white shoes with bows.

Attending church the next Sunday, the pastor shares how the color white represents purity — pure like Jesus. She later tells her cottage mom that she wants to be “pure like Jesus” and she asks Jesus into her heart. She wears the white shoes with bows the day she is baptized.

Your generous financial gift provides hope to hurting children — children who hear the Gospel often for the very first time. Thank you for sharing the love of Jesus through your generous Easter gift. Give now and help a child like Jessie dream of a better life.



703

decisions for
Christ have been
made in the past
five years!

I want to CHANGE A CHILD’S LIFE *this Easter!*

\$100 \$300 \$500 \$1,000 \$ _____ *Any size gift!*

To make a gift by check, please print your information below and mail this form with your check.

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____ Email _____

To make a gift by credit card: 1) Go online at www.bchfamily.org/easter 2) Or make your gift by calling Faith Frazier at 336-474-1312

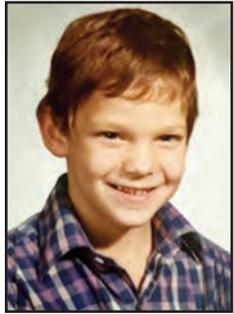
- Yes, I would like to receive email updates from Baptist Children’s Homes.
 Contact me with information on how to prepare a Christian Will. I have included Baptist Children’s Homes in my estate plans.

Canipe says decision to get involved and help is easy

By Jim Edminson, Editor

Jeremy Canipe was seven years old when he received what he thought was a “death sentence.”

“The symptoms were there,” he recalls, “and when the doctor diagnosed me in 1984 with Type 1 diabetes and began to lay out my future, I became very scared.”



Seven-year-old Jeremy

Type 1, or juvenile, diabetes is a chronic condition in which the pancreas produces little or no insulin. Treatment helps, but it cannot be cured.

“I felt my mind was poisoned with a bleak outlook on the future. By the time I was a teenager, the fear of an early and painful death paralyzed me. I didn’t want to become a burden to my family. I became depressed and felt there was no hope,” Canipe remembers.

As he aged and learned how to manage his disease, the fear subsided. But the disease still reminded him of his limitations when he was denied entry into the military or the opportunity to become a state highway patrolman. His desire to serve others led him to a career with the North Carolina prison system.

“The Lord took my blinders off and I laid down my anger and bitterness in 2000,” he says. “I gave my life, and my disease, over to Him and the Lord began to shape me and mold me for Himself. My hopelessness was replaced by hope.”

Regular church attendance, serving as a youth Bible study teacher, and helping with summer vacation Bible school opened his heart to being used by the Lord in other ways.

“It became a matter of prayer,” Canipe asserts. “When the opportunity to help the children at Broyhill Home opened, I knew it was ‘my lane’ and I took it.”

Since 2016, Canipe, his wife Robin and family, fellow church members, other friends, and co-workers have raised more than \$40,000 to purchase Easter baskets, numerous recreational items such as bicycles and basketball goals, cottage items such as bedding, pots, pans, and outdoor gas grills, Christmas gifts for children, and a trip to Dollywood for the children and staff at Broyhill Home in Clyde.

“It was an easy decision to get involved and



Jeremy Canipe has served 22 years as part of the North Carolina prison system. Today, he is a correctional officer 1 with the unique task of serving at the Governor’s Western Residence in Asheville. He serves as one of two curators at the facility. With the help of three inmates, they keep the 18-acre residence ready for guests and special events. Canipe was named the 2019 Friends of Children Award recipient at last year’s Western Area Conference at Broyhill Home in Clyde.



Canipe meets with BCH’s Linda Morgan at Broyhill Home to discuss his plans to help children in 2020.

help,” he says. “You never have to wonder if it is the will of God when it comes to helping children. The only question is how much more does He want you to do.”

At 42, Canipe has great empathy for children who face hopeless times. He knows that Jesus is the answer to finding purpose and is open to sharing his story whenever possible.

“God does it all,” Canipe assures. “When you let God and see the magnitude of what He does, you learn that you are not capable

of anything. It is every bit Him.”

Because of his faithfulness to the Lord and his service to children living at Baptist Children’s Homes, Canipe was named the 2019 Friends of Children Award recipient at last year’s Western Area Conference on September 5.

“It was an honor,” he says. “But there are so many who make this happen. It is them, it is for the children, and it’s all for God’s glory.”

Remember Mom and Dad

Make an honor or memorial gift and yours and your parent’s name(s) will appear in a special commemorative section in the August **Charity & Children**.

Check the appropriate box: Honor Memorial

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Phone _____

By check, mail to: Baptist Children’s Homes, Attn: Mothers/Fathers Day, P.O. Box 338, Thomasville, NC 27361 or use the enclosed postage-paid envelope

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Phone _____



To give online, go to www.bchfamily.org/momanddad. To use bank card, call Faith Frazier at 336-474-1312.

Deadline is July 1

Trustees commissioned at decade's inaugural meeting

By Blake Ragsdale, Managing Editor

One by one, the residents from Asheboro Home enter. Their bright-red shirts match the color of their curly wigs. Their smiles are echoed by the smiles of the Trustees, guests and staff members as the ladies, with assistance from caregivers, launch into a rendition of “Tomorrow” from the musical *Annie*.

Everyone is gathered for the year’s first semi-annual meeting of the Baptist Children’s Homes (BCH) Board of Trustees on January 21. The meeting is at Mills Home in Thomasville, the ministry’s historic first location and state administration headquarters.

“Anytime our trustees can be among those we have the privilege to serve, it is a home run,” says BCH president/CEO Dr. Michael C. Blackwell.

Asheboro Home is a part of BCH’s Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Ministry (IDD) — one of nine group homes for special needs adults located across North Carolina.

“These ladies, together with all our special needs residents, are beloved by our trustees and friends,” Blackwell continues. “Just like the lyrics they sing, whenever the ladies walk into a room, the sun comes out.”

Trustees were treated to a special presentation of a performance the IDD residents shared at the Happiness Retreat — a Baptist State Convention of North Carolina event, during the Disabilities Awareness Parade in Asheboro, and for the Kiwanis Aktion Club in Asheboro — where they placed first in its talent competition.

The group also performed the popular “Chain Breaker” where they dramatically broke paper chains at the conclusion of the song.

“To hear the power in their voices as they tore off the chains and to witness their expres-



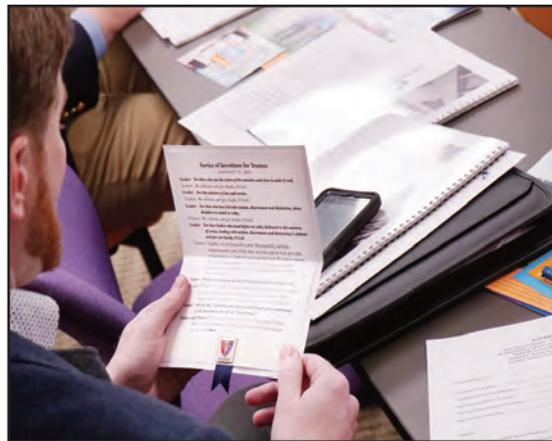
Dressed in their *Annie* costumes, the ladies of Asheboro Home and their caregivers perform “Tomorrow,” the musical’s joyous and well-known song. The residents of the IDD Home in Randolph County were an inspiration to the women and men attending the Board of Trustees meeting on January 21 at Mills Home in Thomasville.

sions during their song from *Annie* affirmed that this is the kind of ministry that Jesus is in,” says David Powell, trustee and senior pastor at Salem Baptist Church in Dobson. “I am thankful that God has entrusted BCH to be a place of community, acceptance, love, and support for people with special needs.”

The most significant moment during the meeting was the *Service of Investiture for Trustees*. Led by Dr. Blackwell, the ceremony honored the men and women serving on the board and officially conferred their high ranking as BCH’s governing body.

“The idea for the *Service of Investiture* has been on my mind for some time, but you can’t force such an effort into being. It comes together when the timing is perfect,” Blackwell explains. “It was fitting that this first ceremony occurred at the inaugural meeting for a brand-new decade.”

Dr. Blackwell led in



a liturgical time where trustees read responsively pledging themselves to honor God as they provide oversight to BCH’s many ministries. Each board mem-

ber received a pin, displaying a newly-designed trustee logo to be worn as they represent BCH.

“These men and women, many who have served multiple terms, are champions of this ministry and a personal blessing to me,” Blackwell shares. “Their invaluable efforts and their position as trustees deserve to be elevated.”

The remainder of the meeting included reports from BCH staff members and financial consultants. Reports included: performance quality and improvement, risk management, an investments synopsis, and the approval of the 2019 audited financial statement.

“God has much in store for us as we enter a new decade,” Blackwell says. “With this dedicated group’s support, BCH is poised for success.”



Above left, Dr. Michael C. Blackwell addresses members of the Board of Trustees. Above middle, Trustees are commissioned during a special investiture ceremony and received a lapel pin with the newly-designed trustee logo. Trustees were encouraged to wear the pin as representatives of the ministry.

“Mrs. Shirley” eases 10 year old’s worries



April 2020

food roundup

Nick sticks close to his cottage mother — “Mrs. Shirley” (as he affectionately calls her) as she browses the pantry looking for ingredients. Shirley is preparing dinner and will make sure there is plenty for 10-year-old Nick and the other growing boys living in the cottage.

“Are you going to use cream of mushroom, Mrs. Shirley?” Nick asks as she takes the can of soup from the shelf.

“I could use cream of chicken instead,” Shirley responds. “Why do you ask?”

“At home, that’s all me and my little brother ever ate,” he responded “I never want to see a can of cream of mushroom ever again!”



Food Roundup Video
 “Your Hands to Their Hearts” — a short promo you can download at vimeo.com/bchfamily/fr20

Bad memories are the only memories Nick and his brother Bo have of home life before coming to Baptist Children’s Homes. The boys were severely abused. They were often locked away in their house with little or no food. If they ate, most times it was cream of mushroom soup.

Today, Nick eats three meals a day. He is amazed that he is allowed to have a healthy snack any time he asks. All of it is made possible by churches collecting food, supplies and gift cards for the annual Food Roundup.

“Mrs. Shirley, I can’t believe how much food you cook!” Nick exclaims as Shirley sets the food on the dining room table where the boys are gathered.

At BCH boys and girls equate food with love. These children, many who have gone without, know that they are loved when North Carolina

Baptists ensure they have plenty to eat — enough to provide 700,000 meals and snacks to BCH’s children, families and special needs adults.

Note: Names and photos are changed for the safety and privacy of the children.



Food Roundup is vital for children like Nick

Visit www.bchfoodroundup.org for resources including needs list, collection guide, pick up points list (coming soon), ads, flyers, slides, and video. More info: Alan Williams | 336-474-277 | awilliams@bchfamily.org

Feed children for a year! Collect items for Food Roundup.

MOST NEEDED ITEMS:

- Canned Fruits
- Paper Products (paper towels, toilet paper, Kleenex, napkins)
- Household cleaning products (i.e. bleach, Comet, Lysol spray and wipes, Clorox spray and wipes, Windex, Pinesol, Pledge, Tilex, etc.)
- Fruit Juice (Apple, Orange, Grape, Cranberry)
- Laundry Detergent
- Bottled Water
- Dry Cereal
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Pasta (Spaghetti, Lasagna, Macaroni)
- Canned Tomatoes (diced, sauce, paste)
- Pancake Mix and Syrup
- Soups (All types & condensed)
- Sugar (Granulated & Brown)
- Flour
- Splenda
- Popcorn, Kettle Corn
- Apple Sauce

- Fruit Pie Filling (Cherry and Peach)
- Beverage Mixes (Tea, Tang, Kool-Aid, Lemonade, Cider Mix - All Sugar Free)
- Vegetable Oil, Shortening, Olive Oil, Pam Cooking Spray, Bakers Choice
- Canned Sweet Potatoes, Canned Yams
- Canned Meats (pink salmon, tuna, roast beef, chicken - packed in water)
- Stuffing Mix
- Gravy Mixes
- Hamburger, Chicken, and Tuna Helper (all types)
- Pickles (Sweet & Dill)
- Refried Beans
- Hot Chocolate Mix
- Snack Foods with & without sugar (Fruit Rollups, Fruit Cups, Beef Jerky, Slim Jims, Pepperoni Sticks, Cheese Nips, Pretzels, etc.)
- Health Snacks (Dried Fruit, Nuts, Raisins, Cranraisins, Trail Mix)
- Individual Cookie Packs
- Jello
- PopTarts

- Rice
- Instant Potatoes (scaloped, au gratin, mashed, julienne)
- Muffin Mixes
- Bisquick Mix
- Kidney Beans
- Baked Beans
- Pickle Relish
- Cranberry Sauce
- Mac & Cheese
- Corn Meal
- Jiffy Mixes, Corn Muffin Mix
- Potatoes
- Hush Puppy Mix
- Peanut Butter
- Jelly, Jams, Preserves (Strawberry is their favorite)
- Pizza & Pizza Dough Mix
- Saltine Crackers, Ritz Crackers, Graham Crackers
- Sauces (A-1, Steak, BBQ, Texas Pete, Cheese, Worcestershire, Soy, Teriyaki, Sweet & Sour)
- Spices and Seasonings (including Salt & Pepper)
- Dishwashing detergents
- Laundry pre-treating products (i.e. Shout, Spray and Wash)

- Brooms, Mops, Scrub Brushes, Dust Pans
- Foil and Plastic Wrap
- SOS Pads
- Fabric Softener
- Dryer Sheets
- Sanitary Pads & Tampons
- Hand Lotion
- Shampoo
- Body Wash
- Soap
- Hand Sanitizer

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)
- Copy/Printer Paper
- Trash Bags (large & small)
- Zip-Loc bags (Sandwich, Snack, Quart & Gallon Sizes)
- Band Aids
- Rubbing Alcohol/Peroxide
- Anti-bacterial ointment
- Razors
- Shaving Cream/Shaving Gel
- Dental Floss
- Hair brushes
- Deodorant
- Conditioner
- Tooth Paste
- Tooth Brushes
- Diapers (all sizes)
- Baby Wipes
- Bug Repellent
- Wasp/Hornet Spray
- Sunblock 30+

- Batteries (AA, AAA and D)
- Disposable Gloves (Latex & Non-Latex)

Additional info:

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

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

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

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

For more information contact Alan Williams at 1-800-476-3669 ext. 1277 or email him at awilliams@bchfamily.org.

Sad news of the passings of sweet friends — 1950s long-legged basketball player gives update

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

On the back of her update sheet, **Cecelia Townsend Wilkerson** wrote: “When I think of Mills Home (MH), I don’t think so much about my experiences there as I think about what it means to me today. I have such a sense of peace and belonging when I’m there. I feel like people understand me because I feel like we all have such a connection and understanding of each other. I feel love and I feel like I’m home. I feel important and that I matter. I love this place and all my brothers and sisters whether we lived there at the same time or not. We’re all connected. I look so forward to Homecoming every year. I love the reconnecting with everyone, seeing old friends, brothers and sisters, laughing so much, and getting hugs. I like it when people recognize and remember me and I love to see everyone enjoying themselves.”

Cecelia came to MH with her sister **Sherri** in 1974 and she left in 1976. She has three offspring and nine grandchildren. She is a hairstylist at Salon 105 in Durham and at NewWave in Salisbury. She is also a fitness instructor at the Forum in Salisbury — a busy lady indeed. Her husband **Mark** works for Panther Heating and Air out of South Carolina. Cecelia and Mark make up a great team as they do all the things they commit to for Homecomings. For several years, their volunteer work has included handling the silent auction and creating fun afternoon and evening activities Saturday of Homecoming — they have done a marvelous job at all they have attempted. Cecelia serves as 2nd Vice President of the Alumni Association.

Steve Carver, a long-legged basketball player from the mid 1950s, gave us an update not too long ago. He and his brother **Glen** came to MH from Robbinsville in 1949 and Steve graduated in 1956. Well known around campus, Steve seemed always to be a reserved and respectful person. Among workers he recalls fondly, he names **Miss Hester** as a favorite, remembering how she engaged in a game of wits to which he enjoyed responding.

Now a single man and retired, Steve is like the rest of us, he enjoys time with his three offspring, nine grandchildren and six great grandchildren. In speaking of Homecoming, he says “I just like being on campus.”

It’s been a few years since we have had an update sheet from **Shirley Highfill Frye** so we send her a big thank you. Friends can reach Shirley at 2417 Cedar Valley Dr., Conover, NC, 78613 or email her at: sidney-frye@charter.net. Shirley and her sister **Ruthann Highfill Reaves** entered MH from Greensboro in 1960 and Shirley left in 1968. She is married to **Sidney Ray Frye** and they have one offspring and one grandchild. The two of them are enjoying retirement. In recalling the workers at MH, she rates **Mrs. Stroud** as her favorite, describing her as a “great lady.” Shirley’s sister Ruthann left MH in 1965 and currently lives in King-

An update sheet from **Homer J. (Willie) Wilson** reports that he came to MH in 1936 with his brothers **Donald and Hubert**. About life at MH, Homer writes “It was great with education in the lower grades in the Mills Home School and later years at Thomasville High School (THS) with my graduation in 1948. It was fantastic learning dairy farm work and other kinds of instruction on campus. After leaving, I worked on two different farms and got into some trouble hunting without a license on one farm owner’s property. When that happened, someone kindly suggested to me that entering the Navy might prevent my receiving a fine for my indiscretion. Relieved that there would be no fine, I took the advice and that probably saved me. I went on to marry **Donna Ruth Thurman** and have eight children who gave us 14 grandchildren who in turn gave us six great grandchildren.”

Regarding important caregivers for him, Homer fondly remembers **Ms. Carter** and the **Jones Family** who worked on the dairy farm.

We had a sad note from **Ray Fortenberry** that informed us that he lost his brother **David Lee Forten-**

berry last December 23. Friends can send condolences to Ray at 605 Tema Rd., Hartsville, SC, 29550 or email him at address: Scccf68@gmail.com. It was been great seeing Ray back up this way from at Homecomings and at **Bill Byerly’s** annual October covered dish lunch.

Many alumni learned from Harry’s Orphanage Memories Facebook page that **Charles Ray Ashe** passed away June 27, 2019. Charles came to MH with siblings **Barbara, Louise, Helen, Sarah, Louie, and George** in the mid 1950s. After leaving MH and THS, he served in the US Marine Corps. He was retired from a long life of service to the Oconee County Facilities and he was a member of Coneross Church of God. He is survived by his wife **Barbara**, daughter **Jessica**, brother **Grady**, and sisters **Helen and Barbara**. He was preceded in death by his brothers **Louie and George** and sisters **Louise and Sarah**. Condolences may be sent to the family at 211 Weldon Road, Westminster, SC, 29693.

We were sorry to hear from **Rebecca Byrd** that her father **Joe Harmon Byrd, Sr.** died last year on November 29. The Byrd family of **Mary Lou, Jackie, Gilbert, Joe, and Blake** entered MH in 1937. After Joe graduated in 1949, he joined the Air Force and was a gunner on a B-17 Flying Fortress. While stationed at Barksdale in Louisiana, he met and married the lovely **Sara Giglio** on October 1, 1953. They made their home in Shreveport, LA and reached 63 years of marriage. Besides being an avid sportsman, Joe loved spending time with his grandkids. He also loved going to work at Giglio Plumbing Co. He loved meeting people, had a generous spirit and was a kind to all. Preceded in death by his wife Sara, Joe is survived by his brother **Daniel Blake Byrd**, four children, eight grandchildren and two great grandchildren. Friends can send condolences to Daniel Blake at 4212 Birdella Dr., Williamsburg, VA, 23188.

A note from **Bennie Phillips** reads:

“It saddens me to write that we have lost yet another MH alumna. **Dorothy Hoffman Vernon** passed away on Tuesday, December 10, 2019. She came to MH as a first grader and graduated from THS in 1958. After finishing two years at Wingate University and earning a BS degree from Appalachian University, she devoted her life to teaching youngsters. Dorothy was predeceased by her sister **Barbara H. Brewer** and is survived by her brother **Russell**, three nephews and niece — **Patrick, Michael, Tine, and Christie**.

“The celebration of her life was on December 17 at Vogler’s & Sons in Clemmons and included vocal music by Russell and a sweet eulogy by **Pat Heath Beck**. More than one MH person described Dot as a sweet, loyal friend. The family requests that memorial donations be sent to BCH, PO Box 338, Thomasville, NC, 27361.”

Again, we learned from Facebook the sad news of the death of **Susan Berndt Marazza**. Susan had been suffering from stage four cancer for six years. The family is so grateful to know she will be spending eternity free from pain with Jesus. **Susan, Ruth, Martha, Andy, and Mark** came to MH in 1973. Susan was a beautiful, very vivacious teen and loved adding her voice to the MH tour choir. She returned to the family home in 1977. As she reared two daughters, **Marina and Shellie**, and helped nurture one grand-daughter, Kaitlyn, she continued her fun spirited and loving relationship with family and friends. When it became clear that she would soon be leaving this life, the **Berndt** family honored Susan by having a star in the constellation Ursa Major named for her. Friends can send condolences to the family at Ruth Hodges’ address: 4227 St. Audrey Pl., Charlotte, NC, 28269; or Martha Fisher’s address at



4340 Woodley Barber Rd., Cleveland, NC, 27013.

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



Making News Every Day Around the State



Family Foster Care Pastor's family adopts sisters

Pastor Dave Cline, Olive Branch Baptist in Roxboro, wife Charlotte and son Caleb became a foster family through BCH and adopted the sisters they fostered. Dr. Blackwell preached at their church recently.



IDD Home in Asheboro Residents shine on special night

The ladies at Asheboro Home, along with other men and women living at intellectual and developmental disabilities homes, dressed in their best for "Night to Shine" Tim Tebow Foundation proms.



Mills Home in Thomasville Moeisha graduates college

Moeisha, a former child in care at Mills Home, overcame numerous challenges to graduate college in December. She walked the stage with her cottage parents in attendance to celebrate her success.



Camp Duncan for Girls Alise graduates from Camp

Camp Duncan's Alise recently graduated from the residential wilderness program after completing all her goals. Camp helps girls and their families overcome their struggles and find success.



Good Shepherd in Guatemala Boys ready to share Jesus' love

Two boys at BCH's affiliate orphanage in Guatemala lace up their shoes for a time of outreach. They are taking the Gospel message and sharing it in the community.



Broyhill Home in Clyde "Mr. Will" tells Christmas story

The boys at Broyhill Home's Frizzell-Higdon Cottage gather around "Mr. Will" Porter as he reads the Christmas story and sharing the true meaning of the season. Some are hearing for the first time.



Care House in Lenoir Church collects for Christmas

First Baptist Crossnore collected household items and food for the teen mothers and their babies. Pastor Bob Garbett and associate pastor Matthew Jacobs, with daughters Sadie and Ellie, delivered them.



Kennedy Home in Kinston Cary church helps cottages

Rhonda Martin from Cary First Baptist Church delivers much-needed items to update the kitchens in Kennedy Home's cottages. The church collected the items as a part of their Christmas luncheon.



Stegall Home in Marshville Church hosts Valentine's party

The men from Stegall Home are "feeling the love" from Unionville Baptist Church, Monroe! Members of the church's Sunday school/AWANA class organized a Valentine's party for the special adults.

Can we help? Many ministries beating with one heart.

1. Western Area Family Services
Linda Morgan, Lead Dir., 828-627-9254
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. Oak Ranch/Family Care
Lynn Garner, Dir., 336-474-1240
6. Cameron Boys Camp
Drew Scott, Dir., 910-245-4034
www.cameronboyscamp.org
7. Camp Duncan for Girls
Brad Gearhart, Dir., 910-944-3077
www.campduncanNC.org
8. Weekday Education
Brooke Child, Dir., 336-474-1201
9. Tucker Greater Vision Ministry
Sara Becker, Mgr., 336-687.6384
10. Family Foster Care
Bob McCleary, 828-627-9254
www.bchfostercare.org
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
Keith Henry, 336-474-1215



Do you feel called to a CAREER IN MISSIONS?

We have immediate opportunities:

- Cottage Parents
- Teachers/Chiefs for Wilderness Camps
- Caregivers for Special Needs Adults
- Weekday Education Preschool Teachers

Call 828.230.7133 or visit www.bchcareers.org

Giving your vehicle puts the ministry in



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

Call Sam Barefoot at 336.474.1224



Be a kid's hero. Change a child's life every month!

For as little as \$15 per month, you can change the life of a boy or girl!— sign up at www.hopechampions.org

"Let me take care of it."

Director Renee Gregory relieves the burden from your family by taking care of your loved one's estate sale with compassion. FREE CONSULT



336.474.1331 | www.fancyfinds.org

Plan now to attend Homecoming on June 6 & 7 — A story of Mountain Dew, a broken toe, and fibbing

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

Homecoming is just around the corner! Remember it is the first weekend in June now. It's not too early to make your hotel room reservations.

I'm looking forward to having a choir loft full of my youngins to sing praises unto the Lord! Let's pack it to overflowing and have some outside the rail. I'm very excited about having Rev. Horace Hawes coming to be the Homecoming Pastor. **Donna Daniels Wade** will be singing special music for us again this year. Please pray for my **Becky and Doris Russ** who will play the instruments for Homecoming.

Again this year, we will have the "old car and truck" show on Saturday morning. Our hats go off to everyone planning Homecoming and especially **Alumni President Katie Parker**.

In my last column, I shared about some of the houseparents and their children living in a cottage with 12 other children. I'm continuing the letter **Debbie McCormick Caulder** shared about her parents. **Mr. Mac, Ms. Pat and Debbie** lived in Bunker Cottage. Debbie writes: "My parents loved the children in their care. Yes, some kids were easier to love than others — but thankfully God loves all of us. I could not name all of the kids that grew up in Bunker and I know I surely would leave someone out. So many have taken the time to call, send a card, ask Dad to give you away at a wedding or attend a deacon ordination, and it made their day. To each of you, thank you for showing them so much love in return.

"Being a houseparent was a hard job. You were on 24-hours a day, seven days a week. The pay was not the reason they served, it was a calling from God. They received many blessings throughout their lives because of the kids who grew up in their cottage.

"I remember one of the famous choir trips to Elizabeth City where we spent the night with different families from the church, we toured the Outer Banks, sang on Sunday

morning, and then ate a delicious dinner prepared by the people of the church. Dad drove the bus on a lot of these trips and he would speak at the churches about how they could help Kennedy Home (KH). He shared that they could be visiting homes or sponsor a child.

One time at a church, a couple came to me and asked me if I had a visiting home or a clothing sponsor? I responded, "No" — a true response. Dad heard me and immediately came over and told them that I was his daughter.

As a staff child, we didn't leave every other weekend or once a month. Staff children just wanted to fit in and be a part of this fantastic group of children. Again, thanks for every kind word and act of kindness you showed my parents during their life. Rest assured you were loved by them. And yes, you were disciplined — just like I grew up being disciplined. But that was because they loved us and wanted us to be the best that we could be."

Another letter by **Barbara Branch Smith** reads: "The most important things I learned at KH were the things that prepared me for life. We had jobs, on campus and off, and we learned and practiced skills we transferred to our lives after KH.

"The on-campus job I enjoyed the most was working in the Main Office doing administrative work. It was more that stuffing and stamping envelopes. My favorite job was running the mimeograph machine. Every week, I typed and mimeographed the week's church program. I loved the smell of the solution that transferred those blue sheets to the program paper. I loved folding them 'just so.' I especially loved knowing which hymns would be sung before anyone else.

"One off-campus was a seasonal job at J.C. Penney's in Long Leaf Mall. I worked in the fabric department cutting fabric, selling thread and helping customers. I really enjoyed it working through the Christmas season. But my favorite off-campus job was working at King's BBQ with my sister **Penny**

and Joyce (Connie) Surbaugh.

Sometimes we had the early morning breakfast shift where customers would order brains and eggs. Sometimes the three of us worked special banquets. And, much to **Mrs. Pearl Simmon's** chagrin, there were times when we worked the closing shift.

On school nights she would have to come upstairs and quiet us down because we would be in our beds laughing (hairnets still on) counting our tips. I am deeply thankful to **Clayton Pate, Paul Stone and Wayne McDowell** whose jobs were to provide transportation for us to King's BBQ and back. We did pay them. I guess in today's term they would have been our Uber or Lyft.

"Finally, we had opportunities to work away from Kinston. The summer before our senior year, Joyce, Penny and I worked in Raleigh. We had our own apartment — one that was heavily monitored. Penny and Joyce worked for the Social Security Office and I worked for the Internal Revenue Service. Raleigh was a big city and I felt like Mary Tyler Moore in New York City — all I needed was a beret to toss into the air.

"KH laid out a good game plan for life. I relied on my waitressing skills all through college and my administrative skills throughout the rest of my life's work — even for a short time as a social worker at a children's home. I am forever thankful."

Donna Duty writes about her job experiences: The first on-campus job I remember was working at the church one summer and helping keep it clean. **Becky Rochelle, Karen Daniels** and I worked together every day. We swept, mopped and waxed floors weekly in the classrooms and the auditorium. We also washed the windows, dusted the pews and cleaned the restrooms. Karen would bring a radio and we listened and sang our favorite songs — sometimes we even danced to the music. On occasion, we would sneak off campus to the Davis Service Station on Highway 70 for a glass bottle of Pepsi or, my favorite, Mountain

Dew and a candy bar, a bag of chips, or some peanuts to go in our drinks. One day, I looked out the church window and saw **Pastor Rodney Beals** walking toward the church. "Mr. Beals is coming," I called to the others. We all scrambled to hide our drinks and snacks. I caught my little toe in the crack of one of the classroom doors, bent it back and broke it. When Mr. Beals saw it and asked what happened, we fibbed not mentioning about our excursion off campus. I was taken to the doctor and was on crutches for weeks.

"I broke my toe a short time later — except this time it was in the cottage. The doctor that attended me was the same one that saw me when I broke my toe the first time at the church and recognized me. He told me if I broke it again he would cut it off. He was just joking but I took him seriously and guarded it closely never breaking it again!"

The Annual Alumni Beach Retreat is on the calendar. The dates are October 2, 3, 4 and 5. We can have the KH Beach Cottage from Friday night until Monday.

This will be great! We will be able to walk on the beach, enjoy the crash of the waves, and breathe in the salt air — we will just need to wear our winter jackets. **Katie Parker, Debbie McCormick** and I will provide more information closer to the retreat. We will have the cost, the menus planned, and know if you need to bring anything with you. Let's try to fill the beach cottage — forty or fifty folks. Wouldn't that be great?

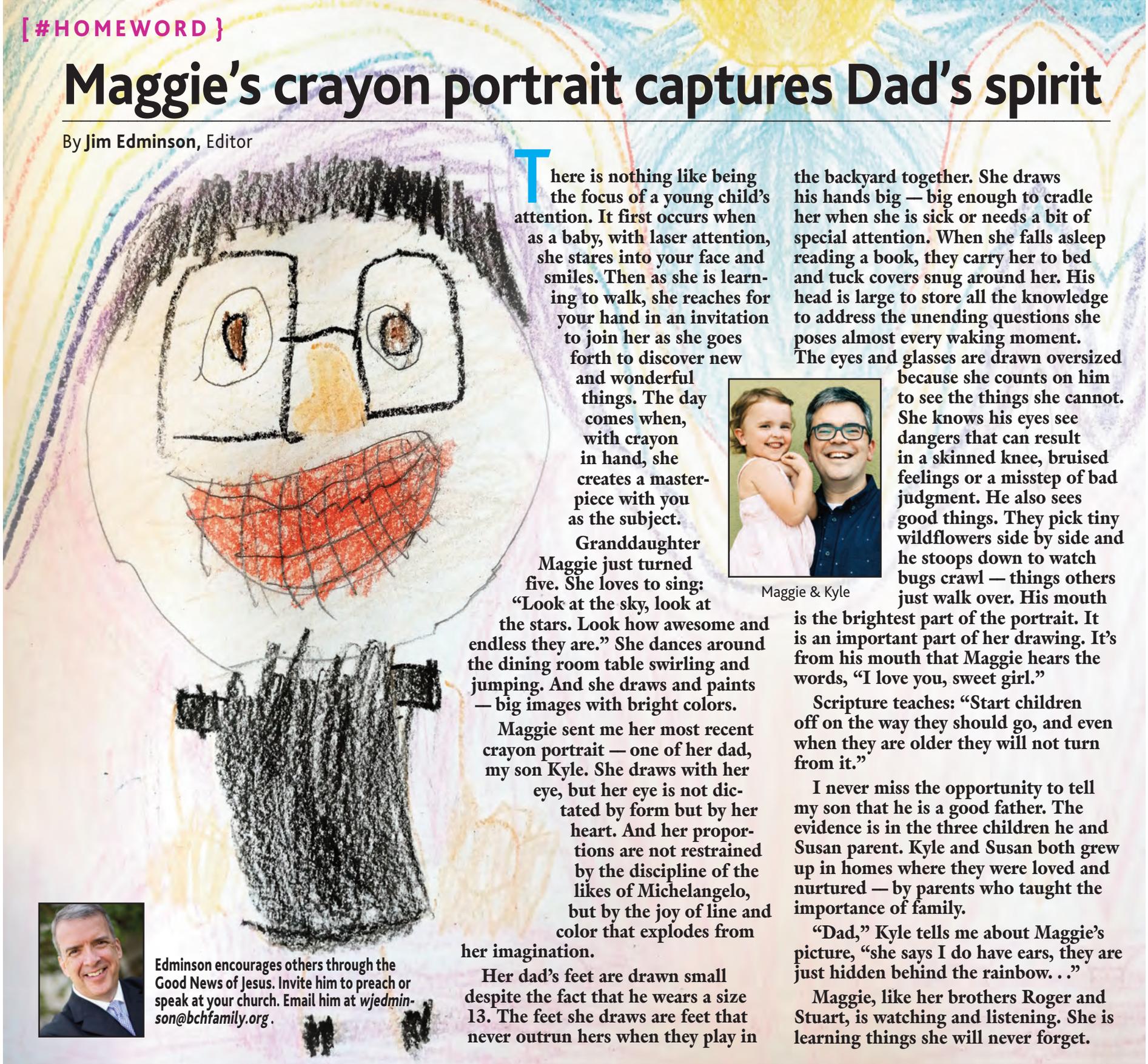
Always remember that Becky and I love all our youngins. You are welcome to call us, write us an email, or come by for a visit. Several of you have already come to our home in Havelock. Please continue to pray for Becky's health. See you at Homecoming. We love you all a bunch and always will. — jt



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

Maggie's crayon portrait captures Dad's spirit

By Jim Edminson, Editor



There is nothing like being the focus of a young child's attention. It first occurs when as a baby, with laser attention, she stares into your face and smiles. Then as she is learning to walk, she reaches for your hand in an invitation to join her as she goes forth to discover new and wonderful things. The day comes when, with crayon in hand, she creates a masterpiece with you as the subject.

Granddaughter Maggie just turned five. She loves to sing: "Look at the sky, look at the stars. Look how awesome and endless they are." She dances around the dining room table swirling and jumping. And she draws and paints — big images with bright colors.

Maggie sent me her most recent crayon portrait — one of her dad, my son Kyle. She draws with her eye, but her eye is not dictated by form but by her heart. And her proportions are not restrained by the discipline of the likes of Michelangelo, but by the joy of line and color that explodes from her imagination.

Her dad's feet are drawn small despite the fact that he wears a size 13. The feet she draws are feet that never outrun hers when they play in

the backyard together. She draws his hands big — big enough to cradle her when she is sick or needs a bit of special attention. When she falls asleep reading a book, they carry her to bed and tuck covers snug around her. His head is large to store all the knowledge to address the unending questions she poses almost every waking moment. The eyes and glasses are drawn oversized because she counts on him to see the things she cannot. She knows his eyes see dangers that can result in a skinned knee, bruised feelings or a misstep of bad judgment. He also sees good things. They pick tiny wildflowers side by side and he stoops down to watch bugs crawl — things others just walk over. His mouth



Maggie & Kyle

is the brightest part of the portrait. It is an important part of her drawing. It's from his mouth that Maggie hears the words, "I love you, sweet girl."

Scripture teaches: "Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are older they will not turn from it."

I never miss the opportunity to tell my son that he is a good father. The evidence is in the three children he and Susan parent. Kyle and Susan both grew up in homes where they were loved and nurtured — by parents who taught the importance of family.

"Dad," Kyle tells me about Maggie's picture, "she says I do have ears, they are just hidden behind the rainbow. . ."

Maggie, like her brothers Roger and Stuart, is watching and listening. She is learning things she will never forget.



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

Help our mission **GROW** through your Charitable IRA Rollover.

IRA Charitable Rollover gifts are a great gift option for someone 70½ and older. If you have an IRA and have not taken your required minimum distribution, an IRA Charitable Rollover gift is a great way for you to grow the Baptist Children's Homes mission of "sharing hope... changing lives" and lower your income and taxes this year.

Call Brenda Gray at 336-689-4442 to change a child's life through an IRA Charitable Rollover.

Note: This information is not intended as legal advice. Check with your accountant, tax advisor or attorney to determine the best strategy for your particular situation.



Baptist Children's Homes is accredited by the Council on Accreditation and is recognized as a certified CARE agency.