

Faith *and* FAMILY

2016 SPRING EDITION

218 The cities
4 she lighted off her ass; and she
leab said unto her, What wouldest
thou?
19 Who answered, Give me a blessing;
for thou hast given me a sount
land; give me also springs of wa-
ter. And he gave her the up-
ter, and the inheritance of Ju-
springs, and the children of Ju-
20 This is the inheritance of Ju-
tribe of the children of Ju-
21 And the uttermost cities
ward the coast of E'dom sou-
were Kab'ze-el, and E'der, a-
gor,
22 And Ki'nah, and Di-mo'
Ad'a-dah,
23 And Ke'desh, and I-
Ith'nan,
24 Ziph, and He'zör,
25 And He'zör,
Ké'ri-oth, and
He'zör,
26 Á máh, an
á-dah,
27 And Há'zar
món, and Bèth
28 And Há'za-
shé'ba, and Biz-
29 Bá'al-ah, and
30 And El-to-lád,
Hör'mah,
31 And Zik'lag, and Mád-mán'nah,
and San-sán'nah,
32 And Leb'á-oth, and Shul'him,
and Á'in, and Rim'mon: all the cit-
ies are twenty and nine, with their
villages:
33 And in the valley, 2 Esh'ta-ol,
and Zo're-ah, and Ash'nah,
34 And Za-nó'ah, and En-gán'nim,
Táp-pu-ah, and E'nam,
35 Já'r móth, and Á-dal'lám, Sö'-
coh, and Á-zé'kah,
36 And Khár-a'im, and Ád-i-thá'im,
and Gó-dé'rah, 3 and Gó-dé'rah,
im; fourteen cities with their vil-
lages:
37 Ze'nán, and Hád'a-shah, and
Mig'dal-gád,
38 And Ial'á-an, and Mir'peh, and
Jék'the-el,
39 Iá'chik, and Bóe'kshá, and Eg-
lón,
40 And Chá'bon, and Lab'mam,
and Kéh'Dah,

1 Sam. 27. 6.

2 Num. 13. 23.

2 Or. or.

3 Kis. 14. 7.

4 Hab. 1. 17.

5 Jer. 40. 1.

6 Jer. 40. 1.

7 Jer. 40. 1.

8 Jer. 40. 1.

9 Jer. 40. 1.

10 Jer. 40. 1.

11 Jer. 40. 1.

12 Jer. 40. 1.

the border of the children of
E'phraim according to their
inheritance. And the border
of E'phraim was this; even the border
of their inheritance on the east side was
Á'á-róth-ád'dár, / unto Bèth-hó-
ron the upper;
2 And the border went out toward
the sea to Mich'mé-thah on the
north side; and the border went
eastward unto Tá'a-nath-shí-
ron the sea; and the border went
north eastward by it on the east to
Já-nó'hah;
3 And it went down from Tá'pu-
to Á'á-róth, and to Ná'a-ráth, and
Jór'dan.
4 The border went out from Tá'pu-
and the goings out thereof were at
the sea. This is the inheritance of E'phra-
im by their families.
5 And the separate cities for the
children of E'phraim were among
the inheritance of the children of
Ma'ná'sseh, all the cities with their
villages.
6 And they drave not out the
Gé'zerites that dwell in Gé'zer;
the CA'nan-ites dwell among
Ephraim under tribute.
CHAPTER 17.
The city of Manasseh. The children of
Manasseh.

THE SAMPSON
INDEPENDENT

Free First Month's Rent!



The Villas at Rolling Ridge

A DePaul Independent Senior Living Community

Now Open!



The Villas at Rolling Ridge, an independent senior living community, are newly constructed, attractive, affordable apartments that offer comfort and convenience. We provide the ideal home for today's living.

Come discover us...

- Spacious one-bedroom, single-level apartments
- Conveniently located in Newton Grove near restaurants, grocery stores and shopping
- Inviting porch and patio
- Fully equipped kitchen including frost-free refrigerator, stove, dishwasher and garbage disposal
- Wall-to-wall carpeting and ceramic tile
- Individual storage area
- Individually-controlled central air conditioning/heat
- Laundry hook-up
- 24-hour emergency maintenance
- Trash removal provided on site
- Cable-ready
- Well-lit parking lot
- Pet friendly – ask for details
- Direct payment plan; credit cards accepted
- Flexible lease options

Let us make you feel at home!

The Villas at Rolling Ridge

695 Mt. Olive Drive, Newton Grove, NC 28366
 (919) 894-3001 • www.depaul.org
 email: villasatrollingridge@depaul.org



He always has a reason

By Rebekah Reynolds

Have you ever been angry at God? When things don't go the way we would like, we sometimes find ourselves blaming Him for those problems. That question we all ask is, "Why me?"

I know I did. When my parents separated, I couldn't understand why God would put me and my family through such a hard time. I didn't put my faith and trust in Him whatsoever. For weeks I wouldn't even talk to him, read his word, or even pray before I had a meal. I blamed him for everything. I became bitter, and resentful. After awhile I became bitter towards my family and friends. I would get angry at the flip of a switch.

My youth group, FUEL, has a week at the beach every July called "Beach Week." We worship God twice a day — morning and night. The rest of the time would be called "Free time." That's where you can go to the pool, beach or just hang around the dorms.

Last year I decided to go for the first time. It was by far the best decision I've ever made. Throughout that week I really let God in; I put my all into the week, and it was amazing what God was

showing me. I had become so caught up in the bitterness in my heart I didn't realize what I was putting everyone around me and God through. I let Him in, and I felt so free.

I came to realize that no matter what happens in our life, God always has a plan. Whether it's something good or something terrible, He knows exactly what He is doing. Maybe He's trying to make us stronger, or maybe He's putting us through the situation because He knows somewhere in our life, someone else will be going through the same thing and he knows we could have the power to strengthen them and help them through their rough times. He always knows what He is doing.

In 2 Corinthians 9:8, it says, "And God is able to make all grace abound you, so that having sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work." We, as Christians, should always try to find joy in any moment, in the good and bad. That's what God wants us to do. It may not be your best day, week or even year, but God puts us through things for a reason. He ALWAYS has a reason for everything.

Restored through faith and forgiveness

From a Clinton resident

I sat down with a close friend and fellow Christian not too long ago and shared my story of faith and restoration with her. Having known me for as long as she has, it wasn't a surprise to her that I had faith, but what brought about the restoration in my life flooded her eyes with tears.

May 8th holds very significant value in my life, but May 19, 2013 changed my life forever. That was the day that I finally realized that God loved me, and no matter the sin, I was forgiven. Having grown up in a Christian home, I knew all about forgiveness and God's unconditional love he has for his children. Despite knowing this, three years ago something happened that caused me to doubt God and question does he really forgive.

I asked to remain anonymous in this story because who I am isn't important,

but rather the story of restoration I have to share is what matters. For anyone who recognizes the story, please just focus on the message and not who I am.

For years, I battled with a demon who consumed my body and everything about me. That demon led me to make choices that I would have otherwise not made and ultimately changed my life forever. It was almost five years ago that I became an addict, the product of several major surgeries and health issues that caused doctors to prescribe enormous amounts of pain medication. In the beginning, I was taking the medicine for all the right reasons, but in the end, that was the farthest thing from the truth. I had become an addict.

"I knew then what I still know today, that God had healed me. Not only had I prayed for guidance and understanding, but I repeated Philippians 4:13 to myself every day, all day long."

— Anonymous

That addiction lead me to make choices that hurt and disappointed my family and myself, but most of all, disappointed God.

As I entered treatment on a Wednesday night, I knew as the double doors closed behind me, that one woman was going in, but there would be a different, a changed woman coming out. With guidance from my family, I entered a 30-day program, but not without hesitation. After all, was I really an addict?

During my first few days of treatment, I tried to convince myself, and my family and medical team, that I wasn't truly and addict, just a case of a patient who wasn't taking her medication as prescribed. I fought for 12 days. It took

me that long to finally realize that I had a problem and I needed help – help that was far greater than that the program was providing. As I sat through counseling sessions and meetings, we were constantly told that "once an addict, always an addict." Forget always, I was trying to convince myself that I was one to begin with. But on that 12th day, as I sat in the non-denominational church service the facility provided, I heard a message of forgiveness. Not only was it about God's forgiveness of us, but us forgiving ourselves.

With my eyes filled with tears, and my heart filled with joy, in that moment I realized – if God can forgive me for what I have done, I can surely forgive myself, because if I am worthy of God's love and forgiveness, I am worthy of self-forgiveness.

See FORGIVENESS | 9



Hopewell UMC

SUNDAY SCHEDULE:

Sunday Devotion & Children's Devotion: 9:45am
 Sunday School: 10:00am | Worship Service: 11:00am

Adam Brinkley,

Pastor of Hopewell UMC
 4641 Church Road, Newton Grove
 (910) 594-0556



"Life without God is like an unsharpened pencil – it has no point..." ~ Unknown

Auto • Home • Life • Business

PROFESSIONAL
 INSURANCE SERVICES

124 E. Elizabeth St. Clinton, NC 28328



- Auto - First Time Accident Forgiveness!
- Home - Guaranteed 100% Replacement!
- Multi Policy Discount!



Kent Daughtry
 CIC, LUTCF

910-592-2224 www.proinsurancenc.com • Mon-Fri 9:00am - 5:00pm

God has never failed us, His grace is always with us

By Annie Bogan

They say God will never give you more than you can handle. I beg to differ.

Emily weighed 8 pounds 3 ounces at birth. She was a beautiful baby and passed her newborn screenings with flying colors. However, I knew something was wrong. It was something I couldn't quite put my finger on... but I knew. I remember hearing her first cry and asking the nurse if she was ok. Those in the delivery room assured me she was fine but I heard pain in my baby's cry. A mother's instinct is always right. I just didn't know that at the time.

Emily was a peculiar baby. She cried... a lot...and, if you picked her up, she would cry even more. She had random fevers, unexplainable rashes, an unquenchable thirst, and she vomited often. Emily preferred dark, quiet rooms. While she reached milestones (rolling over, sitting up, crawling, etc.), she was always a little late in doing so. She was

hospitalized a time or two during her first year for what was chalked up to common stomach bugs. With every passing day though, I became more and more aware that a storm was brewing inside my child's tiny body.

Following her first birthday, Emily became sicker and sicker.

In February of 2001, I reached my breaking point. At almost 2 years of age, my daughter weighed a mere 18 pounds and was vomiting numerous times every day. I knew I was going to lose her if something wasn't done. With a lot of pleading and begging, I was able to convince her pediatrician to run a panel of blood tests. The results were terrifying. Emily's electrolytes were so low, she technically should have been dead. Her kidney function was lower than normal and her little heart was struggling to keep up with the burdens. Immediately, she was sent to our local hospital and, from there, was transported to the UNC Children's Hospital.

The following weeks were beyond

description. Test after test after test. There were x-rays and ultrasounds, EKGs and EEGs, bone age studies and blood draws. We met cardiologists, pulmonologists, nephrologists, endocrinologists, and every other "-ologist" known to mankind. There was a white board in Emily's room where the team of doctors kept a running list of the diagnoses she was given after each study.

I became consumed by terms like hypokalemia, rickets, hypoparathyroidism, hypocalcemia, and renal tubular fanconi's syndrome. At night, I would stare at that board, wondering just how much longer the list would get. Ultimately, the million dollar question was what was causing all of these things. THAT was the answer we needed. THAT was the question that scared me the most.

Finally, after about two weeks, Emily's father and I were called into a conference room by her team of physicians.

"Cystinosis – a rare metabolic disease characterized by the abnormal accumulation of the amino acid cystine." "Without medications and proper treatments, life expectancy would be 9 years of age." "No cure."

"Less than 500 people in the United States, fewer than 2,000 in the entire world." "Practically unheard of." "Crystals will accumulate and slowly destroy every organ." "Medication required every 6 hours for the remainder of her life." "Eye drops to prevent blindness needed every waking hour."

See EMILY | 16

Follow our search to find Emily, a kidney. Look for us on Facebook at "Emily Needs a Type O Kidney Donor."



Pride: Sometimes beautiful, sometimes ugly

By Erica Faircloth

I want to talk about something that everyone deals with...Pride. Pride can be a beautiful thing, but it can also be ugly. Don't get me wrong. We all have it, but it's how you present it that matters. With the help of Wikipedia, Pride is defined as "an inwardly directed emotion that carries two common meanings. With a negative connotation pride refers to an inflated sense of one's personal status or accomplishments, often used synonymously with hubris. With a positive connotation, pride refers to a satisfied sense of attachment toward one's own or another's choices and actions, or toward a whole group of people, and is a product of praise, independent self-reflection, or a fulfilled feeling of belonging."

Here is a question. As a Christian, do we want to reflect our pride as all about "me", or do we want to put our pride as all about God? I don't know about you, but I choose God! Easier said than done, right? We are all human. Personally, I think my biggest issue with pride, is actually fear. Did you know fear is a form of pride? Funny to think about, but it's the truth. My biggest fear is to speak or sing in front of a crowd. I get nervous, anxiety hits me, and I am ready to back out! That's the easy way out! Then I think about all the people that I could affect with my speaking or singing. Even though, as a human being, I am petrified of crowds, or being "the center of attention", I have to remember who I am speaking about or singing to. I am not singing to or being a public speaker to all the wonderful

people in my congregation. I am speaking testimony or about past experiences or about Him being a good, good father! I am singing to Him! Our almighty God!

Boy do I wish I could have found this out two decades ago! I have been allowing my pride to get in the way! Fear... fear of what others think or say, fear of not being liked, fear of not saying or singing everything just perfect; I have been allowing fear to limit what I could do in God's Kingdom. This bible scripture really supports the way we sometimes feel when it comes to being anxious; "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians

4:6-7). Prayer; what a beautiful thing it can be.

If we allow fear to control us, think of all the great things we could miss out on or the people that need to hear our speech or that song we will sing at church. I read this bible scripture a lot to remind me of God's love for me; "Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you" (1 Peter 5:6-7) He is always with us. We can call on Him anytime, day or night, 24/7. Isn't that an amazing feeling to just know that?

Even though I personally still deal with anxiety myself, I know that He is there for me. "I sought the LORD, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears" (Psalm 34:4).

UMO is a family affair for the Tart brothers

From UMO

MOUNT OLIVE — Colby, Ryker, and Aydan Tart of Sampson County all graduated from Hobbton High School and knew they wanted to attend a college where they could further their faith and education. All three brothers decided that the University of Mount Olive, an institution just a county over from their hometown, was the perfect place to achieve their college degrees.

The oldest of the brothers, Colby, was the first to head off to school. He originally started at a different college, but felt it did not meet his spiritual and academic needs. As he was seeking for a college to transfer to, his brother, Ryker, was just beginning his college search. Ryker was interested in the criminal justice program at UMO, so the brothers visited the campus together.

“One of the first things that made UMO attractive was how close it was to home,” revealed Colby. “We just felt comfortable with the atmosphere and the friendly people.”

Colby and Ryker enrolled at UMO in 2011. Colby decided to major in biology, and Ryker decided to major in criminal justice. They both flourished in their different academic fields. Colby graduated in May of 2014, and Ryker graduated in May of 2015.

After watching his two brothers exceed at UMO, Aydan was inspired to follow in their footsteps. He started his freshman year in August of 2015 and is currently enjoying his first year of college.

“Having two brothers attend UMO made the transition to college a little easier,” revealed Aydan.

The deep-rooted faith at UMO also influenced Aydan to attend UMO. Aydan is a self-taught box drummer. He performs for different ministries in

Warsaw, Wallace, and Newton Grove with the worship band, Kinfolk.

“I love the faith that surrounds UMO. I also enjoy attending the on-campus services on Tuesdays. It is great that the school offers chapel services to students,” said Aydan. “I live on campus, so it is convenient to attend.”

Aydan’s older brothers are excited that Aydan chose to continue the tradition of attending UMO. “I am excited for Aydan because I feel like he will fit in as well as we did. I know that he will

get a quality education at UMO that will allow him to achieve his goals, whatever they may be,” smiled Colby.

UMO definitely equipped Colby and Ryker with skills to allow them to achieve their educational goals. Colby is now enrolled in pharmacy school at Campbell University,

and Ryker is now completing his basic law enforcement training with the hopes of one day entering the law enforcement field.

The three brothers are grateful for their time at UMO and hope their youngest siblings, Ellington, and Greyson, also decide to attend UMO in the future.

The three brothers are the sons of Stan Tart and Dana Ruiz. Stan works for a sheet metal fabricator, and Dana works at the Newton Grove Drug Store.

The University of Mount Olive is a private institution rooted in the liberal arts tradition with defining Christian values. The university, sponsored by the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists, has locations in Mount Olive, New Bern, Wilmington, Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, Research Triangle Park, Washington, Jacksonville, and in Smithfield at Johnston Community College. For more information, visit www.umo.edu.

“I love the faith that surrounds UMO. I also enjoy attending the on-campus services on Tuesdays. It is great that the school offers chapel services to students,”

- Aydan Tart



Courtesy photo

Hobbton High graduates Colby, Ryker, and Aydan Tart now attend the University of Mount Olive.



Davis' Auto Body & Paint, Inc.

24 Hour Wrecker Service • Light & Heavy Duty

Davis Tyndall - President

“Our old history ends with the cross; our new history begins with the resurrection.”

276 Faison Highway, Clinton • 910-596-0049

Connecting families and friends in faith since 1854"

Service Times

Sunday School 9:45am

Sunday Worship 11:00am

Dr. Ray Ammons, Senior Pastor

What we believe



We believe in the Triune God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

We believe that God is the Creator, Preserver, and Ruler of Heaven and Earth.

We believe that Jesus Christ, the Son, was God in flesh revealed and that He came into the world that the world through Him can be saved from sin.

We believe that the Holy Spirit reveals God to people and that those who

worship Him must worship in spirit and in truth.

We believe that the Holy Bible is the inspired word of God, that it is the authority and inspiration for the faith and practice of the Christian life, and that every Christian has an individual responsibility to God to discover the meaning of the Scriptures for his or her own life.

We believe that spiritual regeneration must precede baptism, church membership, and commemoration of the Lord's Supper.

We believe that God created humankind in His own image and made of one blood all nations.

We believe that God is faithful and just to forgive all people who confess their sins and profess their faith in Jesus Christ and that regardless of creed or race, they become the children of God and Christian brothers.

We believe that as a local community of Christians, we are a part of Christ's Church which is universal in scope. Therefore, we believe that we should witness and work for Christ in fellowship with all children of God in an effort to oppose evil and extend the Kingdom of God throughout the world.

We believe that nothing can separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

00820278

WATCH OUT FOR THOSE SPRINGTIME ALLERGIES.

Check out and compare our everyday low prices

Claritin

30 ct - ~~\$21~~⁹⁹



ALLEGRA ~~\$20~~⁹⁹

Allergy 24 Hour
Fexofenadine 180 mg
15 ct - ~~\$10~~⁵⁹
30 ct - ~~\$13~~⁹⁹
70 ct - ~~\$22~~⁹⁹



Zyrtec

30 ct - ~~\$21~~⁹⁹



Private Label Loratadine

10 mg
10 ct - ~~\$3~~⁹⁹
30 ct - ~~\$5~~⁹⁹
90 ct - ~~\$10~~⁹⁹

Private Label Fexofenadine

180 mg
15 ct - ~~\$15~~⁹⁹
30 ct - ~~\$13~~⁹⁹
70 ct - ~~\$22~~⁹⁹

NeilMed Sinus Rinse

100 ct - ~~\$13~~⁹⁹



Conicidin Chlor-Trimeton

24 ct. - ~~\$5~~⁹⁹



Flonase

60 doses - ~~\$14~~⁹⁹

120 doses - ~~\$24~~⁹⁹



Private Label Chlorpheniramine

4 mg
24 ct - ~~\$3~~⁹⁹
100 ct - ~~\$5~~⁹⁷

Private Label Certizine

10 mg
(Compare to Zyrtec)
14 ct - ~~\$4~~⁹⁹
30 ct - ~~\$7~~⁹⁹
100 ct - ~~\$14~~⁹⁹

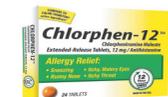
NASACORT

Allergy 24 HR
Multi-Symptom Nasal Spray
Triamcinolone Acetonide 55 mcg
60 dose - ~~\$12~~⁴⁹
120 dose - ~~\$20~~⁹⁹



Chlorpheniramine

ER 12 mg
12 ct. - ~~\$11~~⁹⁹



A pharmacist always available to answer your questions and help you make the right choice.



MATTHEWS
HealthMart
PHARMACY

Caring for you and about you

Jordan Shopping Center Clinton • 910-592-3121

Understanding faith in God at its best

By Pastor Lynn Blackburn

One thing in life that I have learned is knowing how to pick up the pieces and go forward.

It wasn't too many years ago when I realized that you can do this in all kinds of situation. Understanding Biblical principles about faith has helped me grasp how to walk by faith and not by sight, and knowing how to pick the pieces up and keep going.

There are two questions that must be asked: One is, "What is faith?" The second question is "How can I walk in faith in my daily life?" The answers are simple. Faith is to believe in what you are not seeing yet. Faith is daring the soul to go farther than it can see.

Let me explain further. Isn't it strange how a twenty dollar bill seems like such a large amount when you donate it to the church, but such a small amount when you go shopping? Isn't it strange, how two hours seem long when you are at church and how short they seem when you are watching a good movie? Or, how everybody wants the front row tickets to concerts or games, but at church they strive to sit on the back pew?

When there is a lack of faith, there is a higher level of fear. Fear will speak to you and tell you what you cannot do.

Fear will limit how far you can go. Fear speaks in the realm of "what ifs". Where there is fear, there is a lack of confidence and security. Fear shackles the mind and stresses the spirit. However, one can overcome fear by having the right relationship with our Heavenly Father.

The scriptures have stated, "that perfect love casteth out fear." My relationship with God starts with His Son, Jesus. It begins with me accepting what He did for me on Calvary's Hill and that believing through Him, I am saved and born again.

When I began to study Jesus' teachings, I saw plainly that He was not just teaching about faith as much as He was saying to have faith in God. We are to trust in Jesus and believe that He was who He said was. Jesus is teaching us that our faith is hinged on what God has said more than what educated men say. This is the hope we have in His Word, because the Bible takes us into the mind, will and plan of God.

Let me propose to you that God's system, which is His Word, differs from the world's system.

God has never tried to take His Word and line it up with the world. Instead, He wants the world to get lined up with His Word. The Word of God will never change to accommodate man's lifestyle. The scriptures have stated that faith

cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God. You don't get faith because you have heard, which is past tense, but you gain faith by hearing. Hearing is a present tense. It's not a one time deal. Faith is forever increasing by a continual hearing of God's Word through ministry. The faith that you will gain will give you the strength to climb mountains that you cannot move. Your faith in God will become so strong that you won't feel the need to complain to people how big your troubles are. Instead, you will tell your troubles just how mighty your God is. As you are reading this right now, someone is going to get a hold of a tenacious faith that says, "I will not quit and I will not back down. I am strong and I am brave. I am bold as a lion. I am a mover and encourager. I am a movement and not a monument. I am made to be an overcomer and not to be overwhelmed." With this

type of faith, you will never let the enemy take you back to the place where you were previously, because now you possess a "coming out faith." You might be in a struggle, a storm, or in the middle of a battle, but the difference is now you have a persistent faith. A faith that says, "I will not turn back."

Let me encourage you right now to stop talking about the battles and the struggles, and instead talk about your Commander-in-Chief. God has never lost a battle nor has He ever suffered defeat. He will see you through every battle and every storm. This is faith at its best!

Pastor Lynn Blackburn is senior pastor of Clinton Family Worship Center, where he has been for the past 24 years. He and his wife Stephanie have been married for over 29 years. They have a daughter, Megan, who is married to C.J. Dew. They have one granddaughter, Summer Dew. When not preaching, he enjoys vacationing in the mountains, hunting, playing basketball, riding four-wheelers, reading and running.

What is this thing, grief?

By Donna Landes

I was a teenager when my favorite Aunt died; I just could not understand. I was angry, and I could not understand why she had to die — now. She always had something funny to say, cared about all of us so much, and had the biggest smile that would just light you up on the inside.

At some point in our lives, we have or will experience the death of someone we love with all of our heart. Maybe it was an Aunt or an Uncle, a Grandpa who took you fishing and let you drive the truck

when nobody was looking, a Grandma who baked you those special cookies and knew just what to say when you were having a bad day, a spouse who loved you no matter what you did or said, or maybe it was your child and all those experiences you had hoped for, or maybe it was your most dearest friend who always knew when to call or take you for a coffee.

The pain we experience cannot be explained or written in words. It just cuts our very soul, and we wonder what the

See GREIF | 8



**SEEING
IS BELIEVING**

DISCOVERING THE POWER OF EASTER

**JOIN US EASTER SUNDAY
MARCH 27TH
9 AND 11 AM**

CHILDREN'S CHURCH - NURSERY - GREAT MUSIC - RELEVANT MESSAGE!
CLINTON COMMUNITY CHURCH
1901 Sunset Avenue, Clinton, NC 28328
910-592-3624 | www.clintoncommunitychurch.org

Grief

From page 7

coming days and nights will be without them. But thank God that we feel the pain, because feeling the pain is actually healthy for us and begins our healing process.

Elizabeth Kubler-Ross, who has worked intensively with terminally ill patients, developed the "Five Stages of Grief."

1. Denial: "This can't be happening to me."
2. Anger: "Why is this happening? Who is to blame?"
3. Bargaining: "Make this not happen, and in return I will ____."
4. Depression: "I'm too sad to do any thing."
5. Acceptance: "I'm at peace with what has happened."

These five steps are necessary for us to heal and to become healthy in our lives and in the lives of those we love and who love us. Each one of us will handle our

grief differently; some of us may take longer to be angry — while some of us may become depressed for a longer period of time. It is ok for each of us to handle our grief differently, but all of us will experience many of the same emotions and/or feelings.

- Feelings of extreme distress physically, emotionally, and spiritually
- Irritable and unable to rest or sleep
- Preoccupied and not remembering important dates or events
- Feelings of not being hungry or for getting to eat
- Excessive change of behavior (eating, drinking, avoiding family and friends, or engaging in activities that are dangerous and out of character)
- Excessive talking about and to the deceased person

Please know that while these feelings may be normal, if these feelings continue for 6 months or more, you need to contact a professional counselor. Sometimes our grief becomes an overwhelming part of our life, and we need someone to guide us

through our grief.

Along this journey of life, we have many experiences and people in our lives who help make us who we are. Corrie Ten Boom, a Holocaust survivor, stated, "Every experience God gives us, every person He puts in our life, is the perfect preparation for the future that only He can see." In her book, "The Hiding Place," Corrie shares how she grieved over the loss of her family and the Jewish people and how her Christ became that one source of strength and refuge.

What Corrie experienced, what she lived, is an example for all of us. Grief is something we will or have experienced — it is part of our life journey.

What should be important to us is:

- to recognize our grief
- to feel and experience our grief in healthy ways
- to transform our grief into a healing process
- And to live out beyond our grief — one day at a time — one step at a time.

So, you may be wondering how I dealt

with the death of my Aunt; I turned to my Christian faith and the hope given to all of us by Jesus Christ that one day I will see her again, hear her funny stories, and see that great, big smile! "Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him." 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-14 (NIV).

If you would like somebody to talk to about your grief or any life experience, I would love to listen to you. Please call me at 910-990-5646 or email: donnarl310@gmail.com.

References

Kübler-Ross, E. (1969). On death and dying. New York, NY: The Macmillian Company.

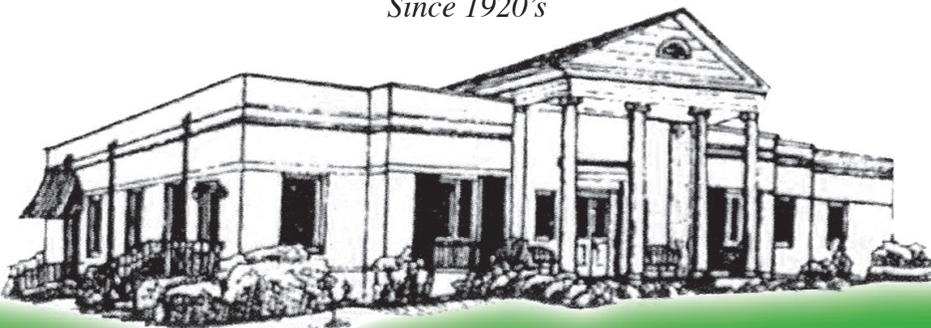
Ten-Boom, C. (1974). The hiding place. Netherlands: Chosen Books.

Donna Landes is a volunteer chaplain at Sampson Regional Medical Center.

*We ought to weigh well,
what we can only once decide.*

**Complete Funeral Service including: Traditional Funerals, Cremation
Pre-Need-Pre-Planning**

*Independently Owned & Operated
Since 1920's*



Butler Funeral Home

2 locations to better serve you

401 W. Roseboro Street
Roseboro, NC
910-525-5138
910-525-4337 (fax)

Hwy. 24 Windwood Dr.
Stedman, NC
910-223-7400
910-307-0353(fax)

Southern Style BBQ & Chicken Inc.

*Voted Best Fried Chicken for 26 consecutive years
Let us cater your family get togethers*



Hours

Monday-Friday: 10:30-8:00
Saturday: 10:30-6:00

**338 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd • Clinton
(910) 592-6212**

Forgiveness

From page 3

In those first 12 days of treatment, I was really hard on myself. There were many moments I questioned how God could allow me to go through something like this. I felt unworthy of his love and mercy. For more than three decades, God had given so much to me. He had blessed me with so many things, and here I was repaying Him through sin and doubt.

That night, when I left the service, I felt a sense of relief, but something was still eating away at me. On an outside table, volunteers from the church had displayed Bible verse cards, cut the perfect size to fit into your pocket. I picked up Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me," not realizing at the time how true the words in that scripture were and how much they related to my life. Despite realizing that God had already forgiven me, I just

couldn't bring myself to offer forgiveness to my own thoughts. I continued to pray over the next few days and ask God to help me forgive myself.

Finally, I realized, it's all in words. Being told I was always going to be an addict didn't sit so well with me. Please, for anyone who has done AA or NA, don't think I am trying to challenge the steps of the program, as this applies to me and my trust in full restoration from God. How could I always be an addict if God had healed me of my addiction? When God heals us of something, it no longer consumes our bodies. We are survivors! That's what I am – a SURVIVOR of addiction.

I knew then what I still know today, that God had healed me. Not only had I prayed for guidance and understanding, but I repeated Philippians 4:13 to myself every day, all day long. During our recovery sessions, they talked about cravings and struggles. I won't dare say I haven't had struggles, but I can say because of God's divine healing and his restoring of

my life, I have never had a craving.

Today, I sit here as an almost three-year SURVIVOR! One of the counselors at the program loved to call me "30-day wonder" without ever telling me what that meant. I finally learned that for people in AA or NA, or another recovery program, that refers to someone who does a 180 degree turn, and changes their life forever.

It was through Christ and Christ alone that I did all these things. I have forgiven myself. He has offered strength through this situation, one that has brought me much closer to Him. That card is still on my refrigerator. I see it every morning as I reach into the refrigerator for my coffee creamer, and every morning, before I start my day, I recite Philippians 4:13 to myself. Throughout the day, as struggles arise, and they always will, I remind myself of those words and God's promises.

This faith column was sent in anonymously by a Clinton resident.



www.clintonappliance.com

WE WILL TREAT YOU LIKE FAMILY!

910-592-7077

Our newest Brand → **Monogram.**

Embracing the challenges of life with our God

By Becky Spell

Do the song lyrics, "Up from the grave He arose" resonate chords of restoration and victory in your life? The Holy holiday of Easter reminds us of Jesus' ultimate sacrifice and sweet redemption. He died on the cross, was buried, arose, descended into Hades to take care of business with Satan, walked the road to Emaeus with two men who did not recognize Him as they journeyed together, shared time with His disciples and showed Thomas His nail scarred Hands, promised to send a Helper, ascended to Heaven, and sits by the right hand of His Father.

This powerful Easter story puts Jesus' amazing grace in proper perspective. He died as a sacrifice for our sins so that we can RISE UP in faith to face life here, stay closely connected while honoring covenants, enjoy a personal relationship with Him, and be prepared for life eternal in Heaven when He calls us Home.

Rising Up in faith to live out loud in love with the Lord sweetly satisfies the hunger for happiness and thirst for peace that only He can quench. May this Easter season bring us closer to Christ with a deeper appreciation and greater commitment to know and serve Him with loyalty and love. In retrospect, let us recount times in our own lives when we have 'risen up' in faith to face situations that could have kept us in the grave. Personal testimonies (from God's children) tell of times He carried us and ways He rescued us from places where death could have consumed. When we share stories of Jesus' grace and guidance in His plans and purpose for our lives, others are encouraged to Rise Up and be restored. Oh how sweet to trust in Jesus, even when heartaches and handicaps could bury us in sorrow. When we make the choice to Rise Up with courage and faith to face our fears and hardships, Jesus sees our hearts, hears our prayers, and helps restore our lives with purpose, passion, and a place where His plans pan out perfectly!

This story shares a short version of how God's plans, for my niece's life, are panning out with a storyline that only He could script. Katy Borum's parents, Mary

Gaye and Kurt, and four year old brother, Andy, welcomed her to their family in 1996. My son, Cameron, and I were there the day Katy was born. She was beautiful. Yet, concerns came when we realized she had extra digits (toes) on each foot. This realization would lead to more health concerns for Katy and her loved ones to handle with continuous prayers and tender loving care.

Katy was born with physical limitations and abnormalities that brought 28 operations the first 19 years of her life. The first was removing the extra toes when she turned one. Doctors encouraged her parents to have both of Katy's legs amputated below her hips at this early age also. This devastating news took time to digest and prayers to decide 'no' to amputation. My sister took a leave of absence from work to spend more time with Andy and care for Katy. They traveled to hospitals all over America seeking help to save Katy's legs. Finally, they were guided to Shriner's with help from James Robert Vann and local Shriners.

Thus, Katy's long road with doctor's appointments, braces on her legs, rods in her back, body braces, more surgeries, complications, medicines, pain, and problems due to her handicap kept pushing her back to the line of scrimmage every time she recovered and pressed forward to a first down. Yet, Katy, her mother, father, and brother never gave up on Katy being restored or gave in when seasons of doubt and depression tried to bury their blessings. They rose up to each challenge with courage and confidence that God would take care of Katy and bring victory from defeat. And He is!

Time and space prevent sharing the many surgeries and set-backs Katy and her family have faced. My sister and her husband were surely chosen, for their caregiving and confidence that God would work things out for Katy rose up through every season of sickness, surgery, sadness, and situations that threatened to take their sunshine away.

Katy's dynamic personality and perseverance to play sports were in His plan for future blessings we could only imagine



Becky Spell

while watching her grow up. Her love for football brought a blessing to this darling six year old tomboy when the rec. coach agreed to add her to the team's roster. How would this be possible one might wonder Katy put it all in perspective as she practiced and played through the pain and problems she dealt with every step of the way.

Tim and I drove to High Point one afternoon to watch her play. Family, friends, even strangers who watched Katy's wit and willingness to play while wearing braces, cheered wildly from the sidelines when she caught the ball, ran down the field (with players from both teams pulling for her instead of plowing her down), and made a touchdown! That moment of victory and the image of a little girl filled with power and passion to overcome the handicaps that could crush her dreams rise up in my mind as I stop writing this

story and remember that moment in time! I remember respectfully and reverently for the One who brings good from the bad things we endure according to His plans for our lives in His perfect time. And He does...if we chose to rise up and refuse to be buried in pity.

Take time this week to reflect on the sacred meaning of this Easter season and the sacrifice Jesus made when He died on the cross to save us from our sins and pave the way for a personal relationship with Him. Pray for Katy and other people who deal with handicaps daily. Ponder the handicaps you face that can hinder your precious relationship with the Lord and prevent His plans from panning out in your life.

I will share the rest of Katy's story in a future column.

Becky Spell Vann is a long-time columnist for the Sampson Independent's Faith & Family section and owner of the outreach ministry Tim's Gift.




CARTER'S

GENERAL MAINTENANCE

INDUSTRIAL

AGRICULTURE

METAL BUILDING ERECTION

RESIDENTIAL

POWER WASH

2017 S/E Blvd.
Clinton, NC 28328

Frankie Carter
910-592-6904
910-590-4981



Tires Inc.



NO DETOURS™ • Bandag Retread Dealer • Firestone Associate Dealer



We Sell...

Tractor Tires • Industrial Tires • Logging Tires • Bandag Retread Tires
Medium Truck Tires • Passenger & Light Truck Tires • Trailer Tires
Lawn & Garden Tires • Used Medium Truck Wheels & Rims
Nitrogen for commercial, passenger and farm tires.

We Offer...

Road Service • Tire Repairs on: Cars, Trucks, Tractors,
Logging & Construction Equipment

Michael Edwards, Owner • 910-592-4741
317 S.E. Blvd., Clinton • NC 28328 • www.tireincoclinton.com

NOW ENROLLING **H** CRUSADERS

for the 2016-2017
school year



CHRIST

CURRICULUM

COMMUNITY

CO-CURRICULAR

For more information,
visit our website::

Financial Assistance Available

www.harrellsca.com

Trusting God and moving forward in obedience

By Rev. Thomas Farrow

One of the central exhortations of the Bible is the call to wait on the Lord. Psalm 27:14 says, "Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD." There are a number of examples within Scripture that demonstrate God's disposition towards waiting. The prophet Isaiah says, "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint." Many of us have been taught that waiting is God's way. And while waiting is an important motif that runs throughout Scripture, I contend that waiting is not intended to be perpetual never-ending state. Waiting generally culminates in deliverance and salvation. My observation has been that sometimes we use the motto, "I'm waiting on God" as a smokescreen to cover up the reality that we are really stagnant and afraid to move forward. It has been suggested that many people would rather live in the imagined land of grand possibilities than in the place of declared decision. In other words sometimes the easiest thing to say is, "I'm praying about it."

In his book entitled *While I'm On My Feet*, Gerald Kennedy concludes his autobiography by noting that we can assume only two positions in the presence of God: one is on our knees; the other is on our feet. Sometimes it is absolutely necessary that we stand still, but at the

same time, we cannot stay on our knees forever. God's ultimate call is to move forward. Every Christian should practice prayer as a daily discipline. Paul says, "Pray without ceasing." However, if your prayer closet has become an asylum which isolates you from the responsibility of walking in your calling, the Spirit may say to you as God did to Moses, "Quit praying and move forward!"

As we consider the situation surrounding the Israelites crossing the Red Sea (Exodus 14), the children of Israel have just been delivered from the oppressive hand of Pharaoh. God, with a mighty hand, brought them out of Egypt, the land of slavery and oppression. However, their journey was blanketed with challenges that often tested their faith. To start with, they were not given the freedom to choose their own route. Instead God led them in a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Exodus 13:17 makes it clear that God did not lead them the most direct way, but God had a unique escape route that was essentially longer. The quickest way would have been through the land of the Philistines but God knew that had he led them that way the obstacles they would have faced would have been too much. He knew their weaknesses, limitations, and their proclivity to turn back so as a consequence, he led them the long way.

Most of us at some point or another have tried to use a GPS. In fact, most new cars come with some type of navigation



Thomas Farrow

system. Whenever you plug in your desired destination, usually the route that comes up first is the quickest way but it is not the only way. You can choose an alternative route if there is a highway or a tollbooth that you would like to avoid. Most times we want to the way that will get us where we are trying to go in the shortest amount

of time; however, God does not always work like that. He knows the obstacles and detours that are on each route and sometimes on this journey called life God leads us the long way. The Bible says, "The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord." For some of us, the only reason we are where we are right now is because God rerouted us. There is a way that seems right to man but I'm glad we serve a God who knows the end from the beginning. Job said, "But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold." The good news about following God is that regardless of where he leads, if you follow, you will never find yourself in a place where God is not already. Every now and then you just have to thank God that even though it may feel like the long way, God is the one doing the leading.

It is while the Israelites are on their victory march the same Pharaoh who forced them to leave Egypt in the first place decides to go after them so he could re-enslave them. He catches up with them at a very vulnerable moment. They are situated at the banks of the Red Sea, surrounded by high mountains with Pharaoh's army on their trail. When you are striving to do something meaningful and productive for the Lord, you can expect what you are trying to outgrow or get away from to come after you in your vulnerable moments. The reality is pharaohs never cease trying to recapture their slaves. Whether that pharaoh is called addiction, fear, lust, depression, or an abusive past, pharaohs always look for a vulnerable moment to recapture former slaves. Israel has been delivered but here the very powers they had been delivered from are closing in on them. For all practical purposes there was no way out.

On the surface, it seemed like they were hopelessly trapped. In the midst of confusion, the people cry out to Moses. Moses in turn cries out to God and it is here that God says something very curious.

Exodus 14:15 reads, "And the Lord said unto Moses, Wherefore criest thou unto me?" In this context, crying constitutes a lack of faith and a readiness to credit the reality of Pharaoh over the reality of God. How much valuable prayer time do we spend magnifying our problems over God power? Are you telling God about your problems or are you telling your problems about your God? Many times we're guilty of using defeated dialogue, which is problematic because the Bible says that life and death are in the power of the tongue, meaning your tongue can be part of a cure or a curse. As an alternative to the cry of fear and the lack of faith, God issues a shocking command in the text that calls for action. He says, "Speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward." In other words, Moses has prayed long enough. The time had come to move forward. Here we learn an important lesson about prayer. While it is true that prayer is both essential and mandatory, unless we rise from our knees and go forward in obedience, prayer can become ineffective and unproductive. It is only as we move forward and act in obedience that the power we need to do what God calls us to do is given. His power is usually given in proportion to our obedience. Not ahead of time but as we need it.

One problem we sometimes face as people of little faith is that we want to see victory before we ever get into the fight. We want to see a favorable outcome before we move out of our comfort zone. We want to see the entire stairwell before we take the first step. The problem with these kinds of restrictions is this: God has the right to remain silent. He does not owe us an explanation and more often than not he operates on a need to know basis. In other words he only gives us what we need to know to do his will. Prayer is tremendously important but again I say unless we rise from our knees

See TRUSTING | 15

**THORNTON'S
BODY SHOP, INC.**
24 HOUR WRECKER SERVICE

312 Isaac Weeks Road, Clinton

Bus. Phone 592-6493

In Loving Memory of

W.P. Bishop and Paul Bishop



00818113

God waits for us in the moments he designs

By Rev. Bobby Herring

In today's reading we are reminded again by the Apostle Paul that it matters not who we are but who Christ is, and not about what we achieve, but what the Lord achieves through us.

Philippians 3:4-14

I have a question to ask of you; have you ever felt that you have failed to take an opportunity that God has given you to serve him.

I'm just guessing but I feel pretty confident that most of us have felt that way. I know without a doubt that I have failed God on many occasions. Some of those occasions I probably was not aware of what they were until a much later time, but then there were other times that I may have asked myself if perhaps this is a God moment, but yet still walked away without stepping into that moment.

No matter; I am a firm believer that God gives us moments; moments that he has created, designed, decided, determined, whatever word we choose to use, but moments still, in which he has given us the opportunity to step into and fulfill a purpose made just for us. These moments were moments that if we had stepped into them, we would have accomplished whatever purpose God had intended for us to have accomplished.

I say that because I reflect back on the words that the Lord shared with Joshua, as he gave Joshua the instructions to take the Israelites across the Jordan into the Promise Land. The Lord said to Joshua, "Wherever you set foot, you will be on land I have given you" Joshua 1:3 NLT.

When God gives us these moments to step into, he has already given them to us, and all we have to do is to step into them. But, we have the option of stepping into the moment or turning away from the moment. And when we turn away from the moment, we step away with despair and with regret.

Being inspired by the writing of Oswald Chambers from My Utmost for His Highest, he uses the example of the disciples failing to stay awake in the Garden of Gethsemane as Jesus went to

pray. They were given a moment; actually they were given three (3) moments. They were given a moment to stay awake, following the instructions of Jesus to do so, but Jesus came back each time to find them asleep. They knew what they had done. They had failed Christ Jesus. They had failed to step into the moment. They had turned away, and they were in despair.

But Jesus, whether they knew it or not, gave them encouragement not to be in despair, but to find the next moment. He says to them, "Get up, let us be going." The original moment was gone forever. There was nothing they could do to change what they had done, what they had failed to do. No need to allow that moment to be the defining moment of the rest of their lives. There is more to be done, there are more moments waiting. Don't turn away.

Moments are opportunities for us all to preach the gospel, the Good News, without saying a word. Moments are opportunities for others to see Jesus before they see you. Moments are a gift for you to wash the feet of disciples.

Recently I had been blessed to have gone to Nicaragua on a mission trip and less than a week after I got back, I had to leave for Franklin, Tennessee for a Disaster Response Training as part of our Conference Disaster Response Committee. I want to share with a bit of my Nicaragua trip, because I think it goes along with "moments".

I have never thought much about doing "out of country" missions. I have health issues that made me concerned about going out of country, but I had lost some weight, built myself up a bit and felt pretty good. The Disaster Response Committee had sent me to a Mission Team Leadership course and I decided before I planned on forming a mission trip anywhere that I would like to shadow a team leader to get some experiences. I knew that the Nicaragua trip had been planned and I checked with the team leader and she advised me that there were a few openings left, so I signed up.

A group of ladies from one of my

churches had gone on this trip for the past couple of years so I knew they could answer any questions that I may have. I began raising money and it didn't take long for the cost to be covered by donations and projects we had done with help from church members. We were to leave on Saturday, Feb 13.

A week before we were to leave, I injured my back. I've had back problems for years and normally I can work out my kinks, but this just kept getting worse. This happened on a Thursday, and by Sunday I could barely stand in the pulpit and preach. I got up with a local chiropractor and explained I was in pain; I was to leave on Saturday and asked if they would be willing to check me out and do whatever they could to get me where I could make the trip. So every day during those five (5) days before I left I was going to the chiropractor, and to my regular doctor who prescribe some meds for me. Really, nothing seems to have been working. I could at least stand and walk but the nerve were being pinched and I could only stand for short periods before the pain down my right leg was unbearable.

I'm the type that when I plan a trip, right before the trip, I don't really want to go. Sometimes I look for ways not to go. In my mind, I really didn't want to go on this trip anymore. And I thought that maybe I should just use my back injury as the reason not to go, after all I was in severe pain and didn't know what to do. But I kept thinking that all these people

had given donations and helped raise all the money to make it possible for me to go, and I just couldn't let them down. So I got up with the team leader, explained my situation and she assured me that they would do everything they could to help me while we were in Nicaragua. On Friday, we were leaving on Saturday, I told my wife that I could stay home and be miserable, or I could go to Nicaragua and be miserable. She encouraged me highly to go to Nicaragua to be miserable.

But there was another reason I really wanted to go. I was hoping that God was waiting for me there. That sounds strange doesn't it? I was hoping that God was waiting for me.

You see, there are times when I become dry. I find myself without inspiration, the stress of the ministry and of life gets me sometimes where I feel that I'm unable to hear God, or that he has stepped away for a bit, and I need to go and find him, so that I can hear him again. And this was one of those times. I was hoping that I was going to experience a God moment in Nicaragua, and I just knew, that if I didn't go that I would regret it the rest of my life, that I would live in despair.

So I decided to go, with pain meds in my bag and a lot of praying. I did more than just go; I stepped into a "moment" and everywhere I stepped I knew I was

See WAITS | 15

	<p>Call today & let us review your current coverage. Service is our Middle name, but it is my First Priority!</p>	<p>Butler, Hughes & Hayes</p> 
<p>Insurance Service Center</p>		
	<p>312 E. College Street Clinton, NC • 910-592-3108</p>	<p>Pick up our CD Today!</p> 

Faith, family, and love can conquer anything

By Beth Farmer Reynolds

Like all new mothers, I was anxiously awaiting the arrival of my bundle of joy. I was excited and nervous all at the same time, knowing there was this little life coming into the world and I would be responsible for it. My mom and grandmother assured me I would be fine. Why wouldn't I be? I had great examples of motherhood. My grandmother, (affectionately known to many as "Nannie"), had 12 with nine surviving. I had five wonderful aunts and my mom.

My mom deserves an entire story herself. She was a single parent and taught me how to survive and how to rely on God for everything. I had a whole team of strong women of faith to draw from. The months passed, nursery preparations were well underway and doctor visits became more frequent. We knew it was a boy, so the nursery was decorated in blue and white; there was sports memorabilia everywhere. Sonograms were done several times because I was gestational diabetic and they wanted to keep a close eye on me and the baby to make sure things were progressing as they should, and they were. Oct. 11, 1995, was our due date and as the days and months passed, we were growing more excited! Jamie Isaac Reynolds was growing and moving, everything seemed fine. As with many first time babies, Isaac decided he wanted to come a little early; Saturday, Oct. 7, 1995, I went into labor, 12 hours and a C-section later, Isaac was here!! This is where our lives begin to change drastically! Dr. William Carr was the attending pediatrician and had discovered Isaac was not breathing well. Saturday and Sunday passed with no improvement; early Monday morning Dr. Carr came in and told me he was sending Isaac to Cape Fear Regional because he was at a loss of what else to do for him. Thankfully, Teresa Lee (who is my cousin and an exceptional nurse) was there and sat by my bed, held my hand and, wiped my tears, and listened to me pray, until my mom could get there. Isaac was on his way to

Fayetteville, followed by his dad and our Pastor Joe Sealey. Upon arrival the doctors ran a few tests we discovered Isaac had been born with a congenital heart defect known as "Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome". In layman's terms, it means the left side of his heart did not develop properly. Basically, he had half a heart, only the right side was working for his whole body.

The pediatric team at Cape Fear Regional knew they could not treat Isaac's condition there, so they immediately called Duke to have him airlifted. Meanwhile, I was making arrangements to head to Duke myself. This is where the amazing love of family begins to take shape. While I was getting things ready to be released from Sampson, Aunt Ann and Aunt Betsy had already secured a van, picked up my Nannie, and were waiting at the front door of the hospital for mom and me. Soon we were on our way to Duke, I remember very vividly sitting in the back seat between mom and Nannie, my head on mom's shoulder, and Nannie holding my hand as tears seemed to come from nowhere. Aunt Betsy would reach back from time to time and pat my knee. My world was in a complete whirlwind, yet I was in the presence of God and people who knew how to reach Heaven. There are times in this life you need someone to intercede for you. This was one of those times for me. I wanted to talk to God and I did. But I felt that my pain was so great that my words were not making any sense.

Once we arrived at Duke, I was completely amazed at what I saw. As I was wheeled into the NICU waiting room, I was in the presence of the most amazing love and faith I have ever seen. There waiting on me were family and friends from many places. My aunt and uncle from Asheboro, who are the best prayer warriors I know, some of my church family, and the phone was ringing off the hook from people calling to tell us they were praying and they loved us. Not only family and friends, but my doctors and nurses from Sampson Regional as well. When I walked into the NICU and

saw my baby hooked up to monitor after monitor, reality began to sink in. When Isaac left Sampson, he looked like a normal newborn baby. I could not imagine how this precious little baby could go from crying at the top of his lungs until they placed him on my chest and I called his name, to laying there motionless, with all these tubes attached to him. I didn't even know if he knew I was there. As I touched his little hand the monitor made this weird noise and the nurse looked at me and said, "This must be mom". My heart skipped a beat and the tears came like a flood. I asked her if he could really sense me there, and she said yes; just as soon as that monitor made that sound she knew who I was and that he knew I was there.

We met the pediatric cardiologist and his team who were fantastic. We learned a lot about the heart and Isaac's condition as well as the limited options. As the days passed, Isaac went through heart surgery, and at one point they lost him on the table. Prayer brought him back. I remember when the nurse came and told us how things had took a turn for the worst, immediately people began to get on their knees and pray. God spared him and they brought him back to the NICU. A few days passed and he was not improving so they placed Isaac on a heart and lung machine. They were hoping that this would allow his heart to rest and be able to function with the shunt they had put in. This unfortunately did not work. Isaac went to Heaven Oct. 18, 1995. I can tell you that this was the hardest thing I ever faced in my life. I have lost loved ones and felt like my heart was breaking, but this was pain like I had never known. It is not supposed to happen this way. We are supposed to be called before our children. Many people have said, "God has a purpose in all things." I do believe that, but do I know what that is? The answer to that is no, not for this chapter of my life. However, I did learn some things. I saw the amazing strength of family. My family, although we may not always see eye to eye, we are always there for each

other. I felt so much love and care during that time. The nurses were amazed at the network of family we had there and it was constant. One nurse in particular told my Aunt Martha that she did not understand how we could be at such peace during this painful time. Aunt Martha then explained how the peace of God passeth all understanding. She was able to lead that nurse to Christ that day. And I have often wondered if Isaac like Esther was born for "such as time as this" (Esther 4:14). Isaac's life although short lived was a great lesson for many people. Life is a vapor, here today gone tomorrow, it is also a gift from God, it is our responsibility to use it for Him. Isaac was the vessel God use at that moment to reach the hearts of many. It drew some back to God and drew others to Him for the very first time. The power of prayer and faith that amazed everyone was a testimony to our grandparents and the way they raised my mom and her siblings, which in turn has been passed to each of us. I think of this verse when I think of my grandparents - Genesis 12:2 - "And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing. Our family is a blessing to many, we have missionaries preaching the gospel and business men/women who love the community they serve, our grandparents would be proud."

Although that time was bitter sweet for me, God has blessed me with two beautiful children since Isaac, Nathan (who, by the way, was born three weeks early with respiratory distress, but through prayer, God brought him home in two days), and Rebekah (who was completely healthy at birth). They are the greatest blessings in my life. I thank God every day for my three children, my family and friends, and my faith in Him that gets me through each and every day. I am so thankful I can say my family is the epitome of I Corinthians 13. Faith, Family and Love can conquer anything.....

Beth Farmer Reynolds is a media specialist with The Sampson Independent.

Trusting

From page 12

and go forward in obedience, prayer can become ineffective and unproductive. "To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven." There is a time stand still but there also comes a time where we must move forward.

The problem as it relates to Moses' crying out to God is that it was rooted in fear and frustration as oppose to faith. The thing we must remember is that "God has not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." Never allow your life to become cemented in routine - move forward. Don't become overly concerned about your critics - move forward. Don't limit God to what you can see but step out on faith and move forward. Don't stress out over your pharaohs. If God be for you, who can be against you? Move forward!

We talk about waiting on God but sometimes I think God may be waiting

on us! He is waiting on us to humble ourselves, pray, and seek his face. In order to go from being the victim to the victor we must be willing get off of our knees and move forward. A.J. Gordon says, "You can do more than pray after you have prayed; but you can never do more than pray until you have prayed."

Moses was chosen by God to lead God's people from a familiar past to an unfamiliar future. His assignment involved leading the nation to a place they had never gone before. Although obedience allowed for only one response, other options were open to them. They could have turned back, they could have turned aside, or they could have stayed where they were. However, the results would have been either enslavement or destruction. God's command was to move forward. The same is being said to us today: Move forward in sacrifice and service. Move forward in Christian duty and devotion. Move forward is worship and praise. Move forward in Jesus' name, Amen!

Thomas R. Farrow Jr. is pastor of First Baptist Church, 900 College St. in Clinton.

Waits

From page 13

stepping onto Holy Ground. What I saw and experienced I will never forget. I received so much more blessings than I gave.

We had an amazing team of 58 people, mixed with a medical team, a vet team, a water filtration team, construction team, and a Vacation Bible Team. The people we met, the sites we saw, the conditions of some of the communities we visited and served, the children, and how gracious these people were that we were there touched me in ways I'll never forget. I knew, I was so aware, that yes! I had stepped into a God moment. Yes! God had given me a "moment" and I stepped into it, and my world will never be the same again.

Yes! I felt God was with me. Yes! I could hear Him again. Yes! I got my inspiration back. Yes! I knew wherever I stepped I was stepping onto land that God had given me.

You are given "moments" to step into. Don't turn away from them. Step into them! God has given them to you. God has given those moments specifically to you to accomplish something. Whenever we realize that we have failed to fulfill a moment that God has given us, we find it easy to live with regrets, but don't despair. God is with you, and God will give you another moment to see your faithfulness. As Jesus said to the disciples in that garden, "Get up, let us be going." Whether it is in your church, your community, in whatever part of our country or out of country, or even in your own home; step into the moment, and remember that God has already given it to you. All you have to do is step into it. Each step is a step closer to the cross.

The Rev. Bobby Herring is a pastor in the N.C. Conference of the United Methodist Church appointed to Roseboro and Beulah United Methodist Church where he has served nine years. He is serves on the Conference Disaster Response Committee (DRC) and serves as the District Disaster Response Coordinator for the Gateway District. Reach Amen

CLINTON DRUG COMPANY

SHOP SAMPSON COUNTY'S LOWEST PRICED PHARMACY

- * Lowest Prescription Prices
- * 7 Pharmacists
- * Drive Thru Window
- * Open 7 days a week
- * Free Blood Pressure/Sugar testing

We care about our customers!






DISCOUNT PHARMACY MEDICAL SUPPLIES Rx **CLINTON DRUG CO.**

307 Beaman Street • Clinton (2 Blocks From Hospital)
592-8444 | www.clintondrugco.com



Come and Join Us



Serenity

Baptist Church



Sunday:

Sunday School- 10:00am
Worship - 11:00am

Sunday Night:

Bible Study - 7:00pm
Youth - 7:00pm

Wednesday:

Prayer Meeting - 7:00pm

GOD IS GOOD!

Rev. Jimmy Flowers ALL THE TIME! GOD IS GOOD

94 Garland Hwy. | Clinton N.C. 28328 | 910-592-0594

Emily

From page 4

As devastating and terrifying as all of this was, it was equally relieving to have a name to call it. Emily was discharged from the hospital that very same day and we went home to begin our new lives. Our new normal.

There aren't enough hours in the day for me to describe everything that has transpired since then. There have been more hospitalizations that I can count. Emily has participated in medical research across the U.S. We have met many of the other families from across the world who deal with this beast called cystinosis. Emily had a "feeding tube" for many years to help ease the burden of the dozens of medications she has taken since 2001. It's been a whirlwind. It's kicked my behind many days. It's also, however, shown me the beauty in life and the importance of living every day to

the fullest.

Today, Emily is 16 years old. She enjoys reading and writing, texting and gaming, attending church, and annoying her brother and step-sisters. She takes 48 pills a day, eye drops, and shots. The years of fighting have taken a toll on her kidneys. She is currently in stage four kidney failure and we are hoping to find a living donor before she is required to go on dialysis.

There are people who pity us ... who pity Emily ... for the trials she has faced and the challenges that lie ahead for her. However, there is beauty in this story.

God does give us more than we can handle. BUT. He never gives us more than HE can handle. It is only through His grace and His mercy that Emily has come this far. In a few weeks, she will attend her first prom. In just over a year, she will graduate from high school. Following graduation, she hopes to work with children on some level.

I look back over the last 15 years

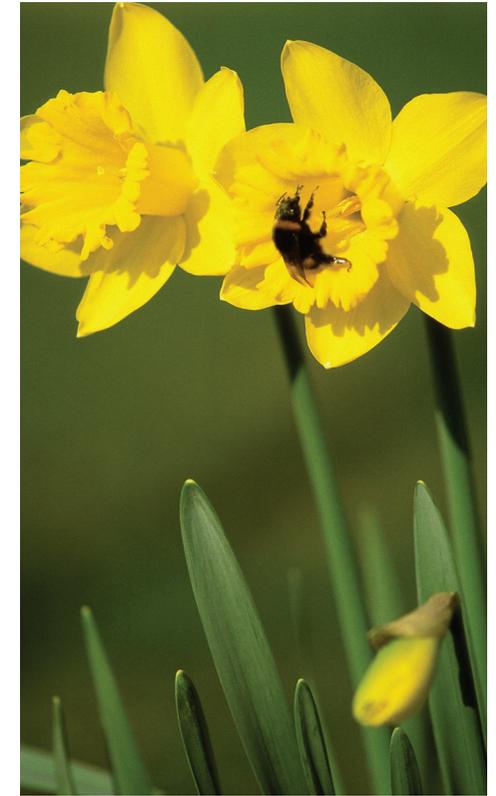
and am truly amazed. The Lord has gone ahead of us and prepared Emily's journey. He has never failed us. He has placed folks along our path at precisely the time and place we needed them. There have been a lot of tears shed...a LOT of fear and uncertainty...and I still have a LOT of questions. BUT I know He is here and, wherever "He" is, "we" are safe.

As Isaiah 41:10, 13 reminds us, "Don't panic. I'm with you. There's no need to fear for I'm your God. I'll give you strength. I'll help you. I, your God, have a firm grip on you and I'm not letting go."

Even when our grip loosens, He still holds on.

To learn more about cystinosis, visit www.cystinosisresearch.org and/or www.cystinosis.org.

Also, please follow our search to find Emily a kidney. Look for us on Facebook at "Emily Needs a Type O Kidney Donor."



First United Methodist Church of Clinton, NC, is the mother church of Methodism for the city of Clinton.

With a history of over 150 years, First UMC Clinton has a history of ministry and missions for over a century, and still remains today as a strong and visible witness of God's love for the world.

First UMC Clinton has recently been recognized as one of the top 100 churches for its programs of innovative and dynamic ministry.

The church is over 675 members strong, and continues to grow with new families each month. The membership is well balanced with all ages and stages in life represented.

With the church's dynamic music program representing a choir that has given concerts around the world, the new pipe organ, new youth house with a strong and growing youth ministry program, and with ministries to families and children, including an after-school care five days a week, First UMC Clinton continues to be a well-balanced church with ministries for everyone.

We belong to Harbor District in the NC Conference of the UMC.



Reverend T.R. Miller

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors
208 Sampson Street • Clinton, NC 28328

910-592-2035
firstumcclinton.com