



THE VOICE



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Matthew 6:33

But seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you.

A bitter-sweet time is quickly approaching. Yes, retirement is only two months away, and it is anticipated with eagerness and also some degree of sadness. By the time this is actually published, you may have already decided on your new pastor. If not, then within a few more days, a final decision will have to be made. Preparations have been ongoing several months, and already a calendar of personal engagements for 2018 and many dates in 2019 are scheduled. Those events provide opportunities to reach others. As a minister of the Gospel, I will continue to spread the *Good News of Jesus Christ*, our Savior.

Now, Mount Pisgah, remember you are a good people, and you are to continue to be a light in the world. You are to use all of your past experiences to encourage others. Do not be ashamed of your past. Use it to help determine a better future. Learn, teach and grow in God's grace. Always use your Bible as your guidebook. Yes, your new bylaws will help you legally, but there is no help better than the wisdom given by God. As a body of believers, you will not always agree on worldly decisions; however, your belief in God, His Word and how He desires we live, will carry you on the correct paths. **Place God first.** Believe in the three-person Godhead—Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Let your decisions be based on pleasing God, not man, and your paths will be directed the right way.

This has been a journey--complex and difficult, but with God, it was possible to overcome negatives. God brought us through troubled waters, and we landed safe and sound. To God be the Glory. **Now, Forward Mount Pisgah.** **"Go ye therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit:"** as is taught in Matt 28:19

VETERANS DAY



A partial quote from former President Ronald Regan explains why Armistice Day is now known as Veterans Day. "Few people remember when Veterans Day was called Armistice Day, commemorating the armistice that ended the First World War on the **11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of the year in 1918.** Armistice Day honored those who gave their lives in "the war to end all wars"—a day of hope that they had not given their lives in vain. But within a few years, and in spite of an impressive effort on the part of the Western democracies to limit arms and to outlaw war, aggressors rearmed and war came again. Ironically, Armistice Day was made a legal holiday in the United States in 1938, just 1 year before a second and more terrible conflagration swept across Europe."

Regan explained why it's good for a nation to have a Veterans Day in a quote he traced to President Coolidge: **"The Nation which forgets its defenders will be itself forgotten."**

Join with Veterans and others who meet at the Court House steps in Raeford each Veterans Day at 11 a.m. to honor those who serve or have served in the USA's armed forces. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!**

Father, We Thank Thee

**Father, we thank Thee for the night,
 And for the pleasant morning light;
 For rest and food and loving care,
 And all that makes the world so fair.**

**Help us to do the things we should,
 To be to others kind and good;
 In all we do, in work or play,
 To love Thee better day by day.**

Children in our schools sang the song above each morning during devotion.





History of Lott Carey

The Lott Carey movement was founded in 1897 by African-American Baptists who were committed to a substantial international missions thrust – especially on the African continent. They believed that nothing should distract the church from executing its primary objective of advancing God’s mission throughout the world. Since its founding as Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Society, the organization has single-mindedly engaged in Christian missions around the world.

The organization is named after the late Rev. Lott Carey, whose fascinating story has served as inspiration for generations. Born enslaved in 1780 in Charles City County, Virginia, Lott Carey became a disciple of Jesus in 1807, purchased his freedom in 1813, and led the first Baptist missionaries to Africa from the United States in 1821. His pioneering missionary team settled in Liberia, where he engaged in evangelism, education, and health care. Rev. Carey served as a well-respected and gifted missional and civic leader until his death in 1828. He was also the organizing pastor for the first Baptist church in Liberia – the Providence Baptist Church in Monrovia. His life of commitment, leadership, vision, and perseverance continues to guide us.

In the 19th and early 20th Centuries, Lott Carey was a black Baptist organization that engaged in missions on the African continent. In the 21st Century, the organization is now a multicultural, ecumenical, global Christian missional community born of African-American Baptist heritage that provides prayer partnership, financial support, and technical assistance to indigenous communities around the world who engage in ministries of evangelism, compassion, empowerment, and advocacy. The Lott Carey Organization works with people from various ethnic identities, diverse Christian traditions, and different faith communities around the globe that share values and interests to help to build a better world. Together, the Lott Carey Organization is touching lives with transforming love

<http://lottcarey.org/about-us/history/> Everyone can contribute to Lott Carey’s mission by serving as a missionary for different projects and *initiatives* and/or by contributing financially. Options for financial contributions are listed below:

- 1) Givelify. Tap.Give.Done.– Get app from App store or
- 2) Google play
- 3) Text “lottcarey” to 20222
- 4) PayPal

- 5) You can always send a check:
Lott Carey, 8201 Corporate Drive Suite 1245
Landover Md 20785-2230
301.429.3300
Sister Callie Graham and Sister Marie Daniel



LET US GIVE THANKS

*Let us give thanks for this wonderful day
For the gift of life and the hope to pray.
The heavens fair and the earth so sweet
The friends so dear that we chance to meet.*

*Let us give thanks for the sunshine bright
The light of dawn and the stars at night.
The springtime rain and the summer breeze
The mountains, the streams, and the spreading trees.*

*Let us give thanks for these blessings rare
For a family dear and the love we share.
The little ones and the smiles they bring
Such a goodly portion of everything.*

*Let us give thanks in a humble way
With a peace in our hearts as we kneel to pray.
Our eyes and our souls ever looking above
Let us give thanks for our God of love.*
Garnett Ann Schultz

Thanksgiving 2016 with Four Generations of the Clark-McNeill merged families with food, fellowship and a family football game in the yard
(Photo by Pam Shaw)



The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise him. Psalm 28:7

MOUNT PISGAH LAYMEN ATTEND SESSION IN HIGH POINT

On September 9th, our Laymen League traveled to Mount Zion Baptist Church in High Point, N. C. to attend a NC State Laymen League Study Commission Session. Rev. Frank K. Thomas was the host pastor, and Deacon Anthony C. Hagan, first vice-president of the State Laymen, was the presider. After the devotion, greetings, welcome and Male Choir's selections, Dr. William Wilson, General Baptist Study Commission Chairman, conducted a "Spiritual Men" workshop. He opened the workshop/class with a discussion on "General Principles for Leadership." The Principles are: One must be born again, committed to the church and its ministry, a tither/giver, attend Sunday School and Bible Study, prayer meetings, and must grow spiritually, be positive, dependable and reliable. He must lead by example. Dr. Wilson stressed the most important of those principles is to be born again. He continued with the story based on Luke 7:1-10, of a regular person, a soldier, a gentleman whose confession and faith was complimented by Jesus Christ. Even though the centurion was a gentile and a Roman, he had done much for the Jews. Elders of the Jews asked Jesus to meet the centurion at his home. However, the centurion did not allow the Lord to enter his house because of unworthiness. The centurion's faith statement was, "Say the Word" and my servant will be healed. May I suggest you read the entire story in your Bible.

The session ended with a call to Discipleship, grace and benediction by the Rev. Thomas. After lunch, we traveled back home and enjoyed being together.

Deacon Orriel Smith, President

Trustees Honored in 2016 with Pastor Fuller



Reverend Vermatine Williams toured with others from Senior Services and enjoyed a day at the State Fair.

Our seniors are on the move. They do many interesting things and invite others to join with them



YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

The Young Adult Ministry Members after conducting a food drive for the community. **2**

*Corinthians 9:7
Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*



Chris Davis was home after having recently been promoted Chief Petty

Officer. His father, Rev. Anthony Davis was able to attend and to pen him during the promotion ceremony

Chris is happy to be among his family and friends in Mount Pisgah and to share in helping with the Food Drive.



IT IS NOT HAPPY PEOPLE WHO ARE THANKFUL. IT IS THANKFUL PEOPLE WHO ARE HAPPY.

PRAISE YE THE LORD



MOTHER AND DAUGHTER, PRETTY IN PINK

Sister Ligeia Robinson and daughter Zamiah spend quality time supporting Breast Cancer Awareness, and are pretty in pink.

DON'T WASTE YOUR MONEY AT CHRISTMAS TIME OR ANY TIME

Plan a budget showing all income and scheduled expenses.



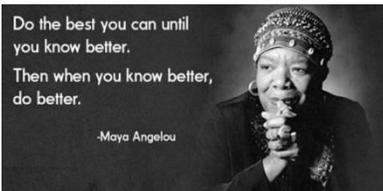
Store away at least three months income to cover unexpected expenses, i.e. car tires, battery, tune-up, breakdown of heating and air conditioning system in the home,

replace washer, dryer and/or other household items.



Learn the difference between a "want and a need." Sacrifice for the things you want as you prepare to meet your and/or your family needs: Food, water, and shelter in some degree of comfort.

Stop waste. Google some ideas from the Internet and then you will know the difference from some old foggy, (your editor) telling you something and the fact that you know from a more reliable source. Plan and schedule a Young Adult Training on "Income and Expenses." Schedule the class for early in 2018.



Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better.

-Maya Angelou

**KNOWLEDGE
IS POWER
RELEASE
YOUR
POWER**

A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

As we draw to the end of another year,
We think of the ones that we hold so dear;
We pause to give thanks for our friends so true,
And ask God to bless them, the old and new.

We hold up each loved one before His Throne
And ask Him to comfort the ones alone;
For those who have lost someone they hold dear,
We ask Him to strengthen and hold them near.
For those who have prospered, with new joys to savor,
We ask God continues to show them His favor.

And those with new babies, or newlywed,
We ask Him to smooth out the path ahead;
For those who are ill and can barely stand,
We ask for the touch of His healing hand.
For those with new homes, with new jobs and new stress,
We ask Him to crown all their plans with success.
For those who have dreams and think, "It's now or never,"
We ask Him to bless all that they should endeavor.
For those who are facing an uphill climb,
We ask Him to carry them through this time.

As we come to the start of a brand new year,
We pray for the ones that we hold so dear.
We ask that each one will be soundly blest,
To taste of His goodness and know His best;
For angels to watch o'er them day and night,
For miracles, blessings and sheer delight!
We ask for the gifts that the world can't buy:
A glimpse at the wonders of Heaven on high,
Contentment and joy till the Lord comes again,
This we ask for our friends, in His Name, Amen.

Connie Hinnen Cook

HOKE COUNTY UNION PASTORS BREAKFAST



The annual Christmas Breakfast honoring pastors of the Union is scheduled for Saturday, December 2, 2017 at 9 a.m. in the CRC. See Sisters Sue Baker or Callie Graham for tickets. Tickets are \$10 each and must be presented at the door.



September is National Sickle Cell Anemia Awareness Month.

Officially recognized by the federal government in 1983, National Sickle Cell Awareness Month calls attention to sickle cell disease (SCD), a genetic

disease that researchers estimate affects between 90,000 and 100,000 Americans. About 300,000 babies are born with the condition every year. While it can affect people of different races, a majority are African-American.

Sickle cell anemia is an inherited disease in which red blood cells are unable to properly carry oxygen throughout the body because of their distinctive crescent-like, or sickle, shape. The condition causes severe episodes of pain and fatigue, and it can lead to damage to the eyes and other organs.

Other than a bone marrow transplant, there is currently no known cure for sickle cell disease, only various forms of treatment. Individuals with the severe form of the disease receive monthly blood transfusions; others receive a transfusion when they experience a pain crisis. People of childbearing age are encouraged to know their own genetic status. Genetic education is provided to those who have sickle cell trait and want to know the chances of having a child born with sickle cell disease.

An individual with sickle cell disease learns to function in a near constant state of pain. At times, the pain becomes so debilitating that Emergency Room visits and hospital stays are required. The Sickle Cell Disease Association of America asks during the month of September, you show support for those who deal with this illness by wearing red. On Sunday September 24th, our Young Adult Choir, (pictured), honored and showed



support for member Amanda Jackson, by wearing red.

Amanda Jackson is a life-long sufferer of the Sickle Cell Anemia Disease. This devoted mother of three is a long-time member of our Church. When asked how Sickle Cell Anemia affects her life, she wrote the following

memoir to describe a day in her life as a sickle cell anemia sufferer, Amada wrote the following: **“A Day in a SICKle Life”**.



Fourth Sundays are young adult Sundays, and this one is even more special to me. In celebration of Nation Sickle Cell Awareness Month, fellow young adults and I wore red in recognition of the occasion.

The morning started off well. Service is going great, but it's extremely cold in the choir stand. I started to feel the cold seep through my bones and go to my chest. I close my eyes, swallow a prayer and press on. Not today devil, not today. Numerous times, I hold my breath to stop the pain, something I've learned to do since I was little. If you hold your breath, that stops the flow of oxygen everywhere. I let it go slowly in hopes that the pain decreases. It's not working.

Service ends, we move to Sunday school, but I go search for my son to get his jacket. If I can warm up, I can stop this storm that's starting to brew. Everyone is excited and upbeat. I try to keep a smile on my face and stay engaged. Those who know me can tell I'm battling. I start rocking which is another coping mechanism to distract the pain. If I keep moving, I won't feel it. My chest is throbbing really bad. A normal person would say peace out homies, I'm going home. But me, this is an every-day battle and I'm used to it. And plus, I have obligations and commitments. I have to lead a song during praise and worship to usher in the Spirit for another awesome service.

Sunday school ends and it's game time. Not literally but that's how I look at my life. I'm a one woman team against my body and I'm the star player. We sing the first song and at the same time I'm giving myself a pep talk. You got this, rock it out and bless the people. My music begins to play and my adrenaline starts pumping. I take off my warm-up suit and jump in the game. I did it, whew, got through that. As I go to my seat, I feel the rush of the pain coming back. I pray again and again for it to stop. It decreases, I think. Or I've just blocked it out.

Service ends and I think I'm over it. Before I leave, I make a point to get pictures with the choir of us in our red. Looking at the pictures you can't see the war I'm currently fighting on the inside.



It's time to go home and take this head on with pain medication and rest. I know this is one of those times when I need to go ahead, bite the bullet and take a trip to the dreaded emergency room. But I can't yet because we have to go celebrate my Godson's birthday with cake and ice cream. I can't miss that. Unbeknownst to the outside world, us sicklers have a checklist of things to run through before we decide to check ourselves into the monster known as the hospital. Is the schedule clear? Are my kids taken care of? Does anyone have anywhere they need to be? Do they have a ride to school in case I'm not there? Are the refrigerator and freezer stockpiled for a couple of days if I have to stay? It's just not an easy decision to make. More times than not, we are left to manage at home because life simply does not stop because we're battling a crisis. I make the decision to go only after we sing happy birthday to my baby. So, I pack my bag, another thing warriors learn when you are taking a trip to the ER. We make sure I have enough clothes for a couple of days because we know hospital gowns are not comfortable nor fashionable. I then pack my phone charger, and of course snacks!! I find the strength to smile and sing all while making sure to not show my pain, even though those closest to me know I'm not well.

OK, I'm ready to go. Let's saddle up this horse and get this show on the road. The time is now 6pm, I've been hurting since 8am. The longer the time ticks without getting the pain under control, the longer it will take for the pain to subside. I get to the ER, my best friend in toe. It's always better to have someone with you because sadly but true, you get treated better than if you go alone. I'm ready for the doctor to tank me up with fluids and the strongest meds they have. But of course, I (we) always run into issues with am I "really" in pain and how much narcotics do I "really" need. That's another discussion for another day!! Right now, I just need you to listen to me and my needs and act accordingly. I already have it planned and set in my head that I do not want to be admitted. After pleading and begging for what I needed, and my mama trading posts with the bestie, I receive enough care to make it another day.

The time is now 4am. I'm ready to go home, and get a little rest because it is now Monday morning. A new day and another chance to win at this thing called life. A



mother's job is never done. But a sickler's life is a battle that I've already won!!

“This is just an example of what I experience everyday living with Sickle Cell Anemia. I don't look like what I've been through. And I thank God for His many blessings. It is said that God gives His toughest battles to His toughest soldiers. When He created me, He created a fighter!!! I believe that I will win!! I'm going to end this with my favorite scripture. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Philippians 4:13”

Stephanie Sutton and Amanda Jackson

USA South Averett University

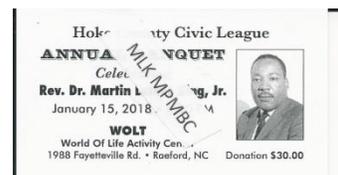
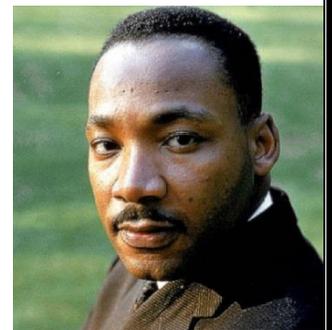


Nick Mintz, Averett University freshman, was the Special Teams Play of the Week in September. Nick is the grandson of Willie and Ellen McNeill. His parents live in Burlington, NC.

Nick a linebacker, blocked two punts on special teams which each turned into touchdowns. He also added two solo tackles in that game. His grandmother knows nothing about football, but now looks for information on Averett University including football.

<http://www.averettcougars.com/news/2017/9/18/footballs-able-mintz-earn-weekly-recognition-from-usa-south.aspx>

ANNUAL MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. BANQUET, WOLT



Tickets are available and must be purchased before December 31, 2017. All tickets are \$25 each and may be purchased from members of the Hoke County Civic League or see Sister Ellen McNeill and others in the Church. Please consider taking youth and teenagers to program. Funds from the event pay for scholarships given to students graduating from the Hoke County School System.



Autopsy of a Dead Church (AOD) process

Before undergoing surgery, the patient usually takes series of tests to form a diagnosis and to determine if surgery is needed. The bad thing about an autopsy, the person is already dead. Whatever problem existed was never diagnosed or defined. In looking at ourselves, we are asked to do a self-screening (must like when women are admonished to do self-check breast exams). If something seems out of the ordinary, the woman, hopefully, will immediately seek help. Sometimes, we cringe from examinations because of fear of what we might find. Even if it is not what you want to hear, isn't it still better than allowing something destroy your body? Just for the sake of knowledge or for just questioning yourself, how about taking the screening below? The good thing about the test, only you and your Great Physician will see the results. **AOD Self Examination/Screening Kit: (Apply with care).**

Is there still SIN to confess?

Anything to make right with God?

Is there an ATTITUDE to change? Are you more negative or positive?

Is there a COMMAND TO OBEY? Is there a command to obey no matter how you feel personally?

Is there a PRAYER to pray? Do you have an active prayer life that includes spending time with God?

Is there a slight to FORGIVE? Are you holding onto forgiveness in your heart?

Is there an ERROR to avoid? Are you able to learn from past mistakes? From yours and others you have observed.

Is there a TRUTH to believe? Do you trust and accept that God's Word is true and live according to its principles?

Is there something for which to PRAISE God? From Scripture and from your own life, can you find something for which to praise God?

FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD



As we approach the season of Christ's birth, our minds turn to thoughts of how God, through His great love for us, gave His only begotten Son to us

that we might have eternal life. Not only did God give His Son, but His Son, Jesus, willingly came, knowing He would become the precious Lamb of God. What love, and the word says: *There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends.* Christ, in fact, did lay down His life for us; however, He doesn't ask us to die for one another, but to do something that should be easier; He said to love one another. Jesus actually says, *A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another as I have loved you.* Jesus also tells us the best way to show the world that we are His disciples is that *we have love for one another.* On third Sunday in October, two different guest ministers came with the same message to us here at Mt. Pisgah, and that resounding message was to *Love.* The men were of different generations, different experiences, and different styles, yet one message, *Love.* I don't know about anyone else, but I felt a tugging in my heart to do more to show the love of Christ: to show love even if it is not reciprocated; to show love even when the "I" in me doesn't feel like it, to recognize that it is *no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me,* to understand that if I am to belong to Him, then I must show love like Him. So, as we prepare for the Advent Season, let us purpose in our hearts to share the precious gift of Love to all whom we encounter.



Reverend Mary C. Owens

THE HADLEY FAMILY PARTICIPATED IN THE PUPPY CREEK FIRE DEPARTMENT CANCER WALK – Others prepared and gave out bottles of water with the Church's name and number. Next year let's get our youth and young adults involved along with other missionaries.



Merry Christmas

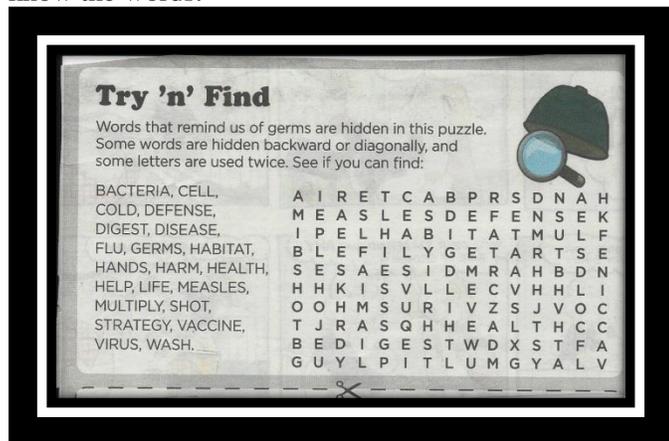
And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins.

YOUTH CORNER

(Copied from the Mini-Page, Fayetteville Observer, Sunday,
Oct. 1, 2017)

PREVENTING ILLNESS

Experts say washing your hands is the most powerful strategy you can use against bacteria or viruses. It is important to wash your hands BEFORE 1) Eating, 2) Putting your hands in your mouth for any reason, 3) After sharing toys, 4) After playing outside or touching an animal, 5) After going to the bathroom, 6) After you have been with someone who is sick, and 7) If you get a cut or scrape. Complete the puzzle below to show you know the words:



DETROIT CHESS CLUB WON NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP IN 2016



Mastering the chess skills not only boosts the board battle but “helps you with school,” said Lauren Bradford, also an eighth-grader at University Prep. “I have an A in math. It helps with calculation and patience. (We recently learned this information and were disappointed that we had not seen the information on national news. This is a great achievement.)

<http://www.detroitnews.com/story/news/local/detroit-city/2016/04/25/detroit-youths-place-st-national-chess-championship/83526258/>

Miyoshi Gordon-Matthews, Founder & President, United - A Divine Purpose, Inc.

SAVE THE DATE

1st Black Tie Charity Gala – “Hope, Friendship & Service”

Saturday, April 28, 2018

Holiday Inn – I95 Cedar Creek
Fayetteville, North Carolina

HOKE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY UNITY BREAKFAST



Recently, Democrats enjoyed a fellowship breakfast in the Civic Center. Are you able to name all of the elected and/or past elected officials? How well do you know who your representatives are? Yes, this is a Civics class. Clues: Senator, Representative, Mayor, and Chairman.

LOOKING FORWARD

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| 11/11 | Veterans Day Service, Courthouse |
| 11/23 | Thanksgiving Service |
| 12/2 | Pastors Breakfast, CRC |
| 12/25 | Christmas Day Service |
| 12/31 | New Year's Eve Worship |
| 1/14 | HCMU Youth Day, Leach Spring |
| 1/15 | MLK Banquet, WOLT |

Send articles to emcneill1005@aol.com

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|------------------------------|--------------|
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| Sister Marie Daniel | 910-875-5146 |
| Sister Denise Wallace | 910-257-1678 |
| Stephanie Sutton | 910-488-3087 |

Grace and peace be yours in abundance.

1 Peter 1:2

**We wish you a Merry Christmas and
A Happy New Year.**