



*Tryon
Church
Chatter*



April, 2022

Bob Grant, Pastor

Lorna Dever, Editor

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Pastor Bob's Blog

Victory in Jesus

Mrs. White assured us that there is victory in connecting with Jesus in a Review and Herald article from July 9, 1908, and it still holds true today.

“A battle is continually going on between the forces for good and the forces for evil, between the angels of God and the fallen angels. We are beset before and behind, on the right hand and on the left. The conflict that we are passing through is the last we shall have in this world. We are now in the midst of it. Two parties are striving for the supremacy. In this conflict we cannot be neutral. We must stand either on one side or on the other. If we take our position on the side of Christ, if we acknowledge Him before the world in word and work, we are bearing a living testimony as to whom we have chosen to serve and honor. In this important period of earth's history, we cannot afford to leave anyone in uncertainty as to whose side we are on....

““Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth’ (Revelation 3:10). In this scripture is brought to view the hour of temptation that is to try them that dwell upon the earth. We are now living in this trying hour. There is no escape for any from this conflict. If in your life there are defective traits of character that you are not striving to overcome, you may be assured that the enemy will endeavor to take advantage of them; for he is watching vigilantly, seeking to spoil the faith of everyone..

In order to gain the victory over every besetment of the enemy, we must lay hold on a power that is out of and beyond ourselves. We must maintain a constant, living connection with Christ, who has power to give victory to every soul that will maintain an attitude of faith and humility. If we are self-sufficient, and think that we may go on just as we please, and yet hope to come out on the right side finally, we shall find that we have made a terrible mistake. As those who hope to receive the overcomer's reward, we must press forward in the Christian warfare, though at every advance we meet with opposition.” *Review and Herald*, July 9, 1908.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
				Campout - Pathfinders	8:30am - Secretary's Office 9am - Thrift Store Open	Offering: STB/Local Budget Quest Speaker - Elder Jerry 9:15am - SS & Church 1pm - Counsel on Diet &
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Campout - Pathfinders Thrift Store Open 10-3	8:30am - Secretary's Office 9am - Thrift Store Open	8:30am - Secretary's Office 9am - Thrift Store Open	8:30am - Secretary's Office 9am - Thrift Store Open 7pm - A/V and Bulletin 7pm - Bible Study	Music Clinic (Fletcher Academy) Secretary's Office (Closed) 9am - Thrift Store Open	Secretary's Office (Closed) 9am - Thrift Store Open	9:15am - SS & Church 12:15pm - Fellowship 1pm - Counsel on Diet & 1:30pm - WINGS Meeting
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Academy Days Thrift Store Closed 1pm - MC: Health Seminar 6pm - Coop Deadline	8:30am - Secretary's Office 9am - Thrift Store Open 6pm - Finance Committee 7pm - Church Board	8:30am - Secretary's Office 9am - Thrift Store Open 7pm - A/V and Bulletin 7pm - Bible Study	8:30am - Secretary's Office 9am - Thrift Store Open 7pm - A/V and Bulletin 7pm - Bible Study	8:30am - Secretary's Office 9am - Thrift Store Open	8:30am - Secretary's Office 9am - Thrift Store Open	Offering: Local Budget 9:15am - SS & Church 1pm - Counsel on Diet &
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Easter Sunday Thrift Store Closed	Easter Monday Tax Day 8:30am - Secretary's Office 9am - Thrift Store Open	8:30am - Secretary's Office 9am - Thrift Store Open	8:30am - Secretary's Office 9am - Thrift Store Open 7pm - A/V and Bulletin 7pm - Bible Study	8:30am - Secretary's Office 9am - Thrift Store Open 7pm - Serpentine Prophecy	8:30am - Secretary's Office 9am - Thrift Store Open 7pm - Serpentine Prophecy	9:15am - SS & Church 12:15pm - Fellowship 1pm - Counsel on Diet & 7pm - Serpentine Prophecy
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Church School Spring Thrift Store Closed	8:30am - Secretary's Office 9am - Thrift Store Open	8:30am - Secretary's Office 9am - Thrift Store Open	8:30am - Secretary's Office 9am - Thrift Store Open 7pm - A/V and Bulletin 7pm - Bible Study	8:30am - Secretary's Office 9am - Thrift Store Open	8:30am - Secretary's Office 9am - Thrift Store Open	Offering: Carolina Youth 9:15am - SS & Church 1pm - Counsel on Diet &

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by Wanangwa Hartwell

Have you heard of migration? Animal migration is the seasonal movement of animals from one habitat to another in search of food, better climate conditions, or to raise their young. The Arctic Tern has the longest migration of any animal on the planet. Every year, this tiny bird, about the size of a cockatiel or a large blue jay, flies from the Arctic to the Antarctic...and back again!

Another group of birds that migrate to and from our area specifically are the warblers. You can see 24 species of wood-warblers in Polk County alone, including the Ovenbird, the Common Yellowthroat, and the American Redstart, just to name a few. Warblers are fairly small, vocal birds and they eat insects. So the next time you see an LBJ bird ("little brown job"), it might just be a warbler!



Widow's Lunch



Arctic Tern



Ovenbird



Common Yellowthroat



American Redstart



Ronnie & Connie Davenport

This past January 1, Ronnie & Connie were married for three years. They met and were married at Forest City First SDA Church. They had known each other for about 7 – 8 years before tying the knot. After Ronnie & Connie were married, they moved to Union Mills, NC where they currently live.

Connie grew up in Clearwater, NE. She remembers her happy days of childhood attending a one-room country school, grades K – 8. She also fondly recalls hunting for Morel Mushrooms and wild asparagus in the family's pastureland in the spring. She moved to Albemarle, NC at 17 years old and she has been in NC ever since. Connie has had a wide variety of jobs (i.e., a paper carrier, a lead teacher in a day care setting, and head housekeeper at Woodfield B&B). She has two adult boys and a girl, the boys living in NC and the girl in NE who graduated from Union College.

Ronnie, on the other hand, was born in Rutherfordton, NC. At 25 years old he went to northern California for ten years, 1976 – 1986. He lived close to San Mateo. In '86 he returned "home" to Rutherfordton. Ronnie is a painter with 30 years of experience; he works fewer hours than he used to but still can put in a six-day week when an opportunity opens up. He gets local contracts to paint houses, apartment buildings, etc.

When we asked Ronnie what a typical day went like, he responded, "Wake-up, morning worship, breakfast, and out of the house by 8:30 am; then back at home about 5 pm and often do some chores around the house. He used to play basketball and family card games. Ronnie has two grown boys living in northern California. He says he was converted to Christianity at age 12, but later became a Muslim and adhered to that faith for 25 years. Then one day an elder came to his house and

invited him to the Forest City First Church. He went and eventually became a Sabbath keeper. The elder taught him all of the SDA doctrines and he became a baptized Seventh-day Adventist. He says the Holy Spirit actually taught him. Of course, he had some struggles but God was faithful helping Ronnie all the way. He is the only one in his family who is a Sabbath keeper.

While Ronnie & Connie were attending the Forest City First SDA Church, it closed for a while due to the pandemic so they started visiting many area SDA churches. Connie liked it here but Ronnie was the Head Deacon at the Forest City First Church. For a while he would attend the first & third Sabbath here and the second and fourth Sabbath at Forest City. However, Pastor Grant kept extending him a warm welcome. He began thinking it was not best for his wife to be attending one church and him another which they had been doing for several months. When Forest City had their Nominating Committee, they asked Ronnie to stay on as Head Deacon, but he felt the Holy Spirit prompting him to attend here with his wife.

Connie's typical day opens with devotions, then she works in the yard with flower beds and gardening. She loves to walk the trails in the woods along with her cats. She also enjoys bird watching. Then there are the routine things like cooking, cleaning, gardening, and working with the kids at church. Connie was not raised a SDA. She came into the church through an ingathering effort. People from the church in NE were going around ingathering. Her dad was always interested in the Bible and wanted to talk about it. The Pastor came from the Neligh (pronounced Neely) NE SDA Church District (had three churches). After studying, Connie, and her mom and dad were baptized.

Connie's favorite Bible verse is Ps. 34:6, "I sought the Lord, and He heard me, and delivered me from all my fears."

We are so happy they are part of our church family and look forward to them getting more involved as this year progresses.



Showers of Blessings

Rosanne Richards

“He sends the rain on the just and the unjust.”
We get some rain, it washes off the the dust.
Without the rain we’d have no food or flowers,
So when they come, enjoy our spring showers.

You have an umbrella or rain gear to wear.
You have shelter in your home to take care...
Since you have comfort in a storm,
To keep you dry and relatively warm...

Be happy for rain, as it is a blessing.
Our God in mercy, I am confessing...
Sends what we need, if not what we want:
Our plans, notwithstanding, a social jaunt.

God chooses best; He’s not shortsighted.
For in the end, we see how He’s guided.
We love the verdure of grasses green...
Of fruit trees blooming we’re also keen.

Thank God for showers and what they bring.
Let’s learn to enjoy this integral part of spring!



Spring Green

Wanangwa Hartwell

Up it comes, creeping, creeping,
Up the mountain, sleeping, sleeping,
On its tiptoes, softly it goes,
Green - so quietly it goes.

White is springing,
Pink is singing,
Yellow bringing
Brightness now.

But the green is
Slowly creeping
To the highest
Hilltops...now!



The Steadfast Love of Jesus

Rosanne Richards

“His mercies shall never come to an end. They are new every morning; great is Thy faithfulness, oh Lord.”
Lamentations 3:22-23 ESV

Whether it’s a Bible verse or a song, it rings true. Every day we see more of God’s mercy as it plays out in life. Men are not, as a rule, merciful. That might be why it’s not always easy to recognize when God is. He gives us what we need even when it’s not what we want. Thank you, Jesus!



Widow’s Lunch



We Are the Going Church for the Coming Christ

Submitted by Terry Robinson

To all who seek friendly fellowship,
To all who mourn and long for comfort,
To all who are weary and need rest,
To all who are burdened with sin and seek pardon,
To all who wish to help in heralding this Gospel of the Kingdom,
To everyone -- our Tryon Seventh-day Adventist Church extends a warmhearted welcome.

(Author Unknown)



Progress on the Kitchen
Dick Bayley

Everyone should be glad to hear that the installation of dry wall in the new kitchen is expected to begin around March 23. The photographs indicate how much progress has been made, with the electrical and plumbing roughed in. Robert Carney reports that about 1 1/2 days will be required to put up the dry wall, but the job won't be finished for a couple of weeks. Insulation has been installed as well. Cabinets and appliances are on order. Things are really happening!



Happy spring! It's a busy time in the garden but I hope you'll still make time to read. We've added some new books again this month, including a couple of old favorites in the teen section: Dixie, a Dedicated Doberman and Duncan, Son of Malcolm.

We also got a really great collection of music CDs courtesy of the thrift store. You can find several volumes of the Heritage Singers, as well as selections from Jaime Jorge, Del Delker, Herman & Sonnie Harp, Charles Haugabrooks, Take 6, and Stephanie Dawn.

As always, let me know if you have suggestions or recommendations. I still have several boxes and bags of donations to go through and you never know what we might stumble across next! Thanks, Wanangwa ~ wrbraves@gmail.com, 828-817-0251 (call/text)



New Roof for the Church

Dick Bayley

Recently, after Pastor Grant noticed pieces of roofing lying on the ground, and since the roof had been a topic of discussion for some time, he decided to look into the matter. After looking at the condition of the roof, a representative of Hayes Roofing reported that the roof really is in bad shape. He also said other churches with similar storm damage have been able to collect insurance.

The next step involved filing a claim with Risk Management, the conference insurance office. Thank you, Pastor Grant! After that, an adjuster came from Risk Management and met with someone from Hayes Roofing. The conclusion was that it was definitely a case of storm damage. However, because the roof was quite old, the insurance would only pay \$24,000. The insurance said they would cover \$24,000 but since our policy was for replacement cost they would pay the rest of \$61,000 after it was completed. Our part would be the deductible of \$5,000.

The \$24,000 will be paid up front, the balance to be paid on completion of the project. The insurance deductible is \$5,000. Pastor Grant was told that the Conference pays 50% of deductibles. When Pastor Grant went back to discuss everything with the roofing company he was told that for churches they always write off 50% of the deductible. That means the roof becomes a zero expense for our church. Praise the Lord!

The Trumpet Shall Sound

Jamie Grindley, as told to Wanangwa Hartwell

This is meant to be a story of hope. We all have struggles. As you read this, remember you have a Heavenly Father, and He cares for you as if you were His only child.

~
“Caleb, I just don’t think that’s what you should be doing. It’s not the right thing to do. That’s not how we raised you!” I admonished my son. Then I would go to bed and lie awake thinking, “What am I doing?” If my parents would have spoken to me when I was 23 years old like I had talked to Caleb earlier that day, I would have been resentful, and that’s not the kind of relationship I wanted with him. I called him on his cell and apologized, “I’m so sorry, Caleb. I had no business talking to you the way I did. You’re an adult now. Will you please forgive me? I love you.” He’d quickly respond, “I know, Mom. It’s okay. I forgive you and I love you too.” How many times did this scenario repeat itself...three, four, five? He’d always say, “It’s okay, Mom. I love you.”

Finally I flung myself across my bed and slid to my knees on the floor, crying out, “Lord, these five precious children You blessed Tim and me with are not really ours. You loaned them to us. They belong to You. You are their Father. Thank You for the joy of having them. I realize now that they are adults, our job is to love them unconditionally, and since You are their Father, You do the disciplining. I know that You love them more than I love them, and You want their hearts fully turned toward You even more than I do. I know that I can trust You with the salvation of our children, and You have my permission to do whatever it takes to save our children.”

“But Lord,” I paused. “I really don’t want anyone to suffer...but if that is what it takes, so be it.” Then I wept, “And Lord, I really don’t want anyone to die, but if that is what it takes to save my children, You have my permission to do whatever it takes to bring their hearts fully to You. I can trust You with the lives of my children.” This became my daily attitude of prayer for my family.

One day in January of 2012, Caleb (now 25 years old) was playing his cello and reminiscing of the times he played Handel’s Messiah in a local church orchestra several years earlier. He said that it was such a highlight of cello playing and he really missed the church’s not performing that anymore. I told Caleb that I would call Skip, one of the soloists, and ask if he would come to our church and sing his solo part for special music.

Skip said he would love to sing. The date was set for April 7, the Sabbath just before Easter. So from February to April Caleb was practicing “Behold, I tell you a mystery” and “The trumpet shall sound.” When he wasn’t practicing, the CD player was playing those songs over and over. We were so excited with anticipation to enjoy this musical presentation with Caleb playing the cello along with two violinists, a trumpet player, and Skip singing. At last April 7 arrived and what a wonderful, high Sabbath blessing we enjoyed!

Eleven days later on Wednesday, April 18, I awoke to a cloudy, rainy day. I rolled out of bed onto my knees, threw my arms upward, and said, “Good morning, Jesus. I’m so excited

for another space of time to live! I know it’s raining outside, but the sun is shining above the clouds. You know all about today and nothing will happen that You are not already aware of, and you will give us courage, grace, and strength to face whatever it is. Thank You for this day!”

Later that morning I was on the computer Skyping with Keturah, Caleb’s older sister in Switzerland, asking if she had heard about the recent death of a family friend. She replied, “Yes, either life is getting more fragile or I am becoming more aware of it. In either case the news just kind of takes words away.” I responded, “I understand. Precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of His saints. Scott’s next waking thought is Jesus coming in the clouds!”

Keturah said, “If death is like a sleep, and I feel so tired and spread thin, it actually doesn’t seem so bad. Don’t worry, Mom. I keep wondering what Jesus’ ‘soon’ coming means, though. I mean, really, His disciples were already saying that it would be soon. I want to believe that it will be soon, but it’s beginning to seem like the only way for it to be soon is to go to ‘sleep.’ Maybe the whole thing is figurative.”

I responded, “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, walk and not faint! Wow, talk about energy!” “I know, Mom,” she said. “Thanks for the encouragement.”

A little later, Caleb came running into the computer room and seeing his sister and brother-in-law on camera waved excitedly to them. They spoke together briefly, and then Caleb got into his car and departed for his work at Napa. One minute later, our electricity went off. I quickly sent a text from my cell phone to Keturah’s email telling her that our electricity had gone off and I would talk to her later. I wandered around the house trying to decide what to do next, all the time wondering what had caused the power outage.

“Hmmm,” I thought, “I’ll call Caleb. He might have passed an accident or tree down on the lines.” Reaching for my cell, I called his phone. After a third call, I realized I was hearing a buzzing in the kitchen every time I called. He had forgotten his phone on the counter when he left for work. A quick call to Napa and they said Caleb had not yet arrived. I slipped his phone in my pocket and told Tim that I was going to take it to him so he would have it while delivering the auto parts. As I walked out to the driveway to get into the car, I could see flashing lights of emergency vehicles just up the road and called to Tim, who was standing in the doorway, “Whatever it is, it’s just up the road.”

I pulled the car out of the driveway, turned left and stopped at the barricade in the road. Up ahead I could see a blue tarp draped over a car on its right side with its roof against the telephone pole. Hurrying the few feet to the EMTs, I questioned, “Is that a Honda under there?” “Yes,” they said. “Is it a Honda Civic?” I asked again as my eyes saw a bit of the bumper of Caleb’s car. “Yes,” they again affirmed. I said that it was my son’s car and I had to see him. “I’m sorry, we won’t let you see him. Besides, this guy worked at Napa.” “My son works at Napa. I’m a nurse. It’s okay, I have to see him, he just left the house!” I urged.

The Trumpet Shall Sound

Continued

“You are NOT going to see him. Sorry!”

I dropped to my knees in the puddles and rain. “Lord Jesus, Caleb, help him.” At that moment, I felt a tap on my shoulder and a voice say, “I’m sorry, ma’am. He’s already gone.” As I got back onto my feet, my mind was flooded with thoughts of my prayers and I said, “God, I don’t understand, but I know you see the bigger picture.” From that moment I felt a peace that I cannot explain.

~

As the time has passed since that day, so many things have happened to give us comfort and assurance. The Lord says:

Good people pass away;

the godly often die before their time.

But no one seems to care or wonder why.

No one seems to understand

that God is protecting them from the evil to come.

For those who follow godly paths

will rest in peace when they die.

~ Isaiah 57:1, 2 NLT

How comforting to know this! The devil can no longer tempt Caleb. The night Caleb died, while lying in bed trying to sleep, I remember telling Tim, “We still have five children. Caleb is just sleeping.” What a blessing the Lord has given us that He has laid Caleb to rest to spare him from evil to come. This is something to be excited about!

Upon awakening Sunday morning for the viewing and memorial service, Tim asked me what I was going to wear. I thought a moment and told him, “Now that Caleb is sleeping he will not be getting married here. He will awaken to Jesus coming to take him to the marriage ceremony and wedding feast of the Lamb.” Tim chose to wear his tux and I wore the dress that I had worn for our two daughters’ weddings.

We filled the front of the church with mementos of our faithful and fun-loving son. Caleb had always seen funeral signs that said “slow” and would say, “Man, when I die, I don’t want a slow funeral sign – I want a fast funeral!” At the funeral, they put a “slow” funeral sign with a red line through the “slow” and the word “fast” above it – another tribute to his joy and love of life.

At the memorial service, the music focused on Jesus’ second coming and the trumpet sounding, the same music from Handel’s Messiah that had so inspired our son:

Behold, I shew you a mystery;

We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump:

for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible,

and we shall be changed.

For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written,

Death is swallowed up in victory.

O death, where is thy sting?

O grave, where is thy victory?

The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

~ 1 Corinthians 15:51-57, KJV

So many friends came to support our family at the memorial service. There were people there from Caleb’s workplaces and people he had touched all over our community. There were stories of Caleb helping a lady fix her car at night and of going out of his way to give hugs to those who needed them. One lady told of Caleb waiting on her table at a local restaurant and how he offered to have the blessing over her meal – the night before the accident. She said that Caleb had talked of Jesus coming again and had shared the words of the Bible about death being a sleep:

But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.

~ 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, NKJV

For a beautiful rendition of these words set to music, see the Fountainview Academy’s Youtube video of the Scripture song “Lest Ye Sorrow”:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l2TurW_A8pI

Yet this is not just a story about how our friends were there for us – it is a story of how God has been there for us. How precious it is to see how the Lord had prepared us to face this trial in our lives. We realized as never before that the challenges in our lives are not to run over us – they are to strengthen our convictions. And yet how much we had to pray for strength. A plaque given to us from our niece read, “Lord, grant me the patience to endure my blessings.”

Caleb introduced a song to me a few months before the accident. It is called “Blessings” and some of the words go like this:

What if Your blessings come through raindrops,

What if Your healing comes through tears,

What if a thousand sleepless nights are what it takes to know You’re near...

What if my greatest disappointments,

Or the aching of this life,

Is the revealing of a greater thirst this world can’t satisfy...

What if trials of this life...are Your mercies in disguise?

~ Laura Story

The Trumpet Shall Sound

Continued

Every day I pray for physical safety for my family, but most importantly I pray for spiritual safety from Satan's fiery snares and evil designs against us. Jesus IS coming soon. The bottom line is, He WILL come in our lifetime. Some of us may go to sleep first, but He is coming in our lifetime! He comes in everyone's lifetime. Stay focused! We all need to have tunnel vision focused on Him, as emphasized in that old hymn:

Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
Look full in His wonderful face,
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim,
In the light of His glory and grace.

~ Helen Lemmel

As I think back on the life of our precious son, I am so grateful that I can trust Jesus with his heart and life. No matter how perfect and polished an individual may appear, or rough around the edges they may be, none of us are in a position to make judgment of the working of the Holy Spirit on another person's character. Before Caleb's accident, my husband and I said, "God is good." Now we say with more conviction than before, "God is really good."

I am thankful too for the angels God sends to protect us and to be with us every day, no matter what happens. Even though that accident took Caleb's life for this earth, I know Caleb's angel was with him in the car, and that his angel will be there when Jesus comes to finally take us all home together.

"Every redeemed one will understand the ministry of angels in his own life. The angel who was his guardian from his earliest moment; the angel who watched his steps, and covered his head in the day of peril; the angel who was with him in the valley of the shadow of death, who marked his resting place, who [will be] the first to greet him in the resurrection morning – what will it be to hold converse with him, and to learn the history of divine interposition in the individual life, of heavenly cooperation in every work for humanity!

"All the perplexities of life's experience will then be made plain. Where to us have appeared only confusion and disappointment, broken purposes and thwarted plans, will be seen a grand over-ruling, victorious purpose, a divine harmony." ~ Ellen White, Education, p. 305



Widow's Lunch



Luncheon for Widows

Terry Robinson

The cabin at Harmon Field, just down the road from our church, was beautifully decorated in spring colors by six of our "WINGS" (Women-In-God's-Service) ladies, including Jennifer Blomeley, the daughter of one of our guests.

At noon on Monday, March 21, we were delighted to welcome 12 lovely widows who responded to our invitation to have lunch with us that day. Our "WINGS" ladies prepared three different soups, three kinds of sandwiches, plus dessert, which was enjoyed by all.

Following lunch, each of our guests were asked to tell us about themselves, and listening to each woman's story was like reading a very interesting book! The blessing of the Lord upon this gathering was most certainly felt and appreciated.



Us widow ladies would like to send our heartfelt thanks to all those who made the recent Widow's Luncheon such a pleasant experience. We were royally treated. The names that come to mind are Kelley Edney, Ramona Grant, Charlene Alford, Julie Rayburn, Debbie Balvin, Barbara Carney, Jennifer Blomeley, Terry Robinson, and others. We loved every minute of it.

Thanks! from the Rotary Club of Tryon

Dear Pastor Grant,

Just a note to thank you for your generosity to our community through the Rotary Club of Tryon. We have been collecting children's books for the Little Free Children's Library at Harmon Field and Sara Wolff at the thrfit store has been wonderful to donate books for this project. Your volunteers at the store are so kind and helpful! It's a joy to go inside there.

Again, thank you from all the Rotarians. Your church is such a beacon in our community — the spirit and love of Jesus Christ is so evident in all you are doing. Thank you for loving all of us and sharing that love so freely.

Beth McCallister
Rotary Club of Tryon
Board of Directors

Give of Your Best to the Master

Dick Bayley

Stop for a moment and think about individual people you have heard about who were known to be not just good at something, but far, far better than anyone else. Some of these people had no equal. Mozart for example (1756-1791), one of the greatest composers of all time; Annie Oakley (1860-1926) master of trick shots, could split a playing card held edgewise at 30 paces; Henry Ford (1863-1947) called a “mechanical genius”; Tom Brady (b. 1977) known by many as the greatest quarterback ever, and Wynton Marsalis (b. 1961) classical trumpeter who founded the jazz program at Lincoln Center, New York.

How about a couple more who are in a class all their own? One, Japanese pianist Nobuyuki Tsujii, who is blind, and yet he can play the most complex, most difficult classical piano compositions that are a challenge to the best pianists who are not blind. Audiences around the world have been awed by his gift, a gift that commonly brings listeners to tears because of the emotion of his performances. One of the pieces that he has often included in his programs is “La Campanella” by Hungarian composer Franz Liszt (1811-1886). We should take a look at his life next.

Following Liszt’s first concert in Vienna at the age of 12, one observer wrote, “Not since Mozart have the concert-goers of Vienna seen such a prodigy.”

His astounding gift continued throughout his life, and as another writer attested, “from boyhood [he] dazzled the adoring audiences of Europe.” He was, truly, the most sought-after musician in Europe. Add to all of this, the fact that Liszt was a devout Christian who loved reading the Bible and yearned to enter the priesthood, but was consistently discouraged from it by his father, who felt his son’s overwhelming gift called for a career in music. Yet, Franz Liszt felt that the “elevation of the cross was his true, innermost vocation” (Kavanaugh). Many years later when Liszt entered the Franciscan order, his ordination then became the most important event in his life!

Franz Liszt was nevertheless an enigma, because of his “devout spirituality” on the one hand, and his “outrageous

lifestyle” on the other, characterized by “a life of epic sensual self-indulgence.” So, while living a loose and worldly life, Liszt managed to become an eminent composer of religious music, perhaps even the best of the 19th century. It was his belief that music is meant to ennoble, purify, comfort, and furthermore, to bless and praise God.”

How are we to relate to Liszt’s contradictory behavior, his dissolute life, while professing a deep faith? Was he a believer in what in we call “cheap grace”? Was it a matter of a huge “log” in his eye? Ellen White had a lot to say about talents. For example, she wrote there are men [and women] of great talent, perhaps like Liszt, whose lack of “humility, simplicity, purity, and holiness of life” counteracts their desire to serve God, making them useless to Him (1T 438). All of us have a talent of some sort, so we should do whatever we can. After all, “the smallest talent and the humblest service may be offered to Jesus as a consecrated gift, and with the fragrance of His own merits He will present it to the Father” (CS 161). “In the judgment, the use made of every talent will be scrutinized” (GC 487). Furthermore, not employing our talents for holy purposes is robbing God (5T 116).

There have been plenty of gifted musicians whose work has not been consecrated to God. Of course, there were fewer who did dedicate their work to God, or who are doing so today. Johann Sebastian Bach, eminent Baroque era composer, is one who produced vast numbers of compositions in God’s name. Felix Mendelssohn is another. One of our hymns (#572) urges us to do right by God’s endowments to us. Here is one part:

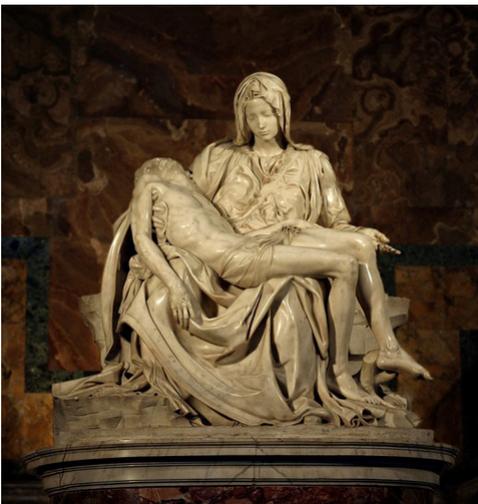
Give of your best to the Master, Give of the strength of your youth,

Throw your soul’s fresh, glowing ardor, Into the battle for truth.

Jesus has set the example— Dauntless was He, young and brave;

Give Him your loyal devotion, Give Him the best that you have.

Note: Quotations here, except for the hymn, are taken from *Spiritual Lives of the Great Composers* by Patrick Kavanaugh.



Caption for *The Pietà* by Michelangelo

The Pietà (meaning The Pity) by Michelangelo, an exquisite statue carved from marble when the artist was 25. The artist himself lived in squalor, had a fiery temper, ate very little, was a forger and rarely changed clothes—which he commonly slept in. He was considered a devout Catholic, even helping to complete St. Peter’s Basilica.



School assignment

Respect is...
Friends
Property
Neighbors
Family
Elders
Leader/authority
God
Teachers
Church
Strangers
Yourself
Nature
Opinions

Juliana Wolff

Respect is...
The way your friend feels
Not stepping on people's yard on purpose
Not screaming by my neighbors' houses
Obeying parents and being aware of family
Knowing people have different lives before you
Knowing your boundaries with leading acts
Obeying God's law
Being quiet when told so in class
Walking softly in the sanctuary
Not making fun of people we don't know
Having self confidence
Helping a turtle cross the road
Not shoving an opinion in someone's face when you know they don't agree

Victoria Wolff

Respect is...
Let them hang out with other friends
No littering
Don't TP their house
Do chores
Open the door for them
Do what they want to do
Obey Him
Don't talk in class
Don't jump over the bushes
Don't act like you're scared
Don't say you're trash
Don't start a forest fire
Do what they can't

Levi Rowe

Respect is...
Picking up ammo when you shoot it
Encouraging them when they do good
Respecting people's choices
Not killing tons of animals
Tell yourself you are good
Saying hi to people as you walk by
Respect God's house
Know that teachers do their best
Pray to God
Know that older people know best
Know that leaders know stuff
Don't fight your family
Don't keep your land trash

Zina Ishwar

Respect is...
Family: Doing the dishes for my mom when she's tired
Nature: Helping an animal when it's in need
Teachers: Don't talk when the teacher is teaching
Elders: Helping our elders
Yourself: Keep yourself clean
Opinions: Don't be rude if you have a different opinion
Strangers: Don't underestimate them even if they're poor
Friends: Sticking up for them
Leaders: Do what they say
Church: Don't be loud when the pastor is talking
God: Obey His commandments
Property: Don't go on other people's land

Ethan Owens

Respect is...
Not leaving trash in forest
Letting other people talk
Don't be mean
Clean a gun after you shoot it
Clean my room
Open the door for them
Obey the law
Pray every day
Do what they tell you to do
Walk softly in the sanctuary
Be nice to them
Don't harm your body



Benjamin Owens

Respect is...

Opinions: To listen to other people

Nature: To be in the outdoors

Friends: People that are there for you

Property: To not destroy your stuff

Neighbors: People that will help you

Family: People that are close to you

Elders: People that know more from age

Leaders: People that are there to help you

God: The Creator of all

Teachers: They are there to help you to learn

Church: To bring you closer to God

Strangers: They might help you out

Yourself: To trust in you

Anders Gore

Respect is...

Caring for the wildlife

Taking others thought into consideration

Helping with projects

Not vandalizing others' property

Being respectful

Doing chores

Holding the door for the elderly

Not breaking the law

Using the ten commandments

Not talking in class

Giving food to the homeless

Letting yourself have breaks

Leah Rowe

Respect is...

Tolerating friends

Keeping opinions to yourself (most of the time)

Not littering

Keeping your body safe

Not judging others you don't know

Listening/talking quietly

Talking respectfully

Trying to understand His Word

Try to understand them because they are leaders

Opening doors for them

Loving them because they're family

Being friendly

Hannah Busch

Respect is...

Do not be rude to property

Do not kick strangers

Do not be unkind to teachers

Do good things to nature

Do not curse God

Be good to the church

Be kind to friends

Love your family

Be yourself

Be good to leaders

Do not tell people their opinions are wrong

Be sure to share to neighbors

Evangeline Petoia

Respect is...

Being kind to your friends

Not damaging property

Not bothering your neighbors

Being kind to your family

Being nice to elders

Listening to your "authority"

By doing as asked

Listening to your leaders

Being polite in public

By staying positive

By not littering

By allowing one to speak freely



These dolls were fixed up by Leisa Howard.
Everything made with items from the Thrift Store.
Come see what you can design!