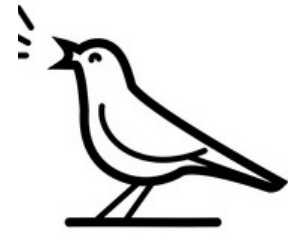




*Tryon
Church
Chatter*



June, 2023

Bob Grant, Pastor

Lorna Dever, Editor

828-817-1544 (Call or Text) serendipitykids@gmail.com

Pastor Bob's Blog

When Following Seems Unfair
Seasons of Life, Charles Swindoll

They were sitting around a charcoal fire at the edge of the sea of Galilee. Jesus and over half of his chosen disciples. It was dawn; quiet and cool. Smoke drifted lazily from the fire as well as the aroma of freshly toasted bread and smoked fish. Perhaps the fog hung low. No doubt small talk and a few laughs occurred as they breakfasted. Surely someone commented on how good it was to catch over 150 fish so quickly.

The sounds of these hungry men must have echoed across the placid waters of Galilee. How delightful it must have been to know they were reclining on sand with their resurrected Savior in their midst.

Suddenly the conversation ceased. Jesus turned to Simon Peter. Their eyes met. For a few moments they talked together about the depths of Simon's love for his Lord. It must have been painful for the rough-hewn disciple, but he answered Jesus with honesty and humility.

Then, as abruptly as the conversation had began, it ended - with the command. From Jesus to Peter. "Follow me!" (John 21:19). Simple; easily misunderstood; heard by everyone, especially Simon. The Lord wanted Simon's heart - without a single reservation. Jesus realized that his disciple was affectionately drawn to him and greatly admired him. But Jesus now told him to be totally available, fully committed with no strings attached. His command was perfectly calculated to get the fishermen off the fence.

Simon's response was classic. Verses 20 and 21 tell the story Peter turning around, saw this one whom Jesus loved (John)... [and] seeing him said to Jesus, "Lord, and what about this man?"

Isn't that typical? The finger was on Peter and he attempted to dodge some of its pointed direction by asking Jesus about John. "What about John, Lord? You're asking me to follow you... How about him? Aren't you going to give him the same kind of command? After all, he's a disciple, too!"

Notice Jesus' reply in the very next verse; it must have stung. Jesus said to him, "If I want him to remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow me!"

This entire dialogue became permanently etched in Peter's memory. I am certain he never forgot the reproof.

Now what does this say to us - and what does it say to the members of our family? Simply this: Following Christ is an individual matter. The Lord saves us individually. He gifts and commissions us individually. He speaks to us and directs us individually. Peter momentarily forgot this fact. He became overly interested in the will of God for John's life.

Does that sound a little like you? It may be the guys putting you through an experience that seems terribly demanding, even humiliating. You are facing the rigors of obedient walk... and you may be looking over the fence or across the dining room table, wondering about his life or her commitment. You're entertaining the thought, "It simply is not fair."

"What is that to you?" asked Christ. When it comes to this matter of doing His will God has not said that you must answer for anyone except yourself. Quit looking around for equality! Stop concerning yourself with the need of others to do what you are doing. Or endure what you have been called to endure. God chooses the roles we play. Each part is unique.

Some couples seem uniquely allowed by God to endure hardship - the loss of a child, a lingering or crippling illness, financial bankruptcy, a fire that levels everything to ashes, an unexplainable series of tragedies. While others are hardly touched by difficulty. It's so very easy for the Peter within us to lash out and bitterly lobby for an Equal Wrongs Amendment before the Judge. His response remains the same: "My child, just follow Me. Remember, you're not John... You're Peter."

Has God called you to a difficult or demanding mission field ... or occupation ... or type of ministry ... or home situation? Has He led you to live sacrificially ... or pass up a few pleasures? If He has - follow Him! And forget about John, Okay? If Jesus is big enough to prod Peters, then he is also big enough to judge Johns.

Thank you,
Pastor Grant

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
Camp Meeting			Church Office Closed	Church Office Closed 9am - Thrift Store Open 7pm - Revelation Seminar (Greer,	Church Office Open 9am - Thrift Store Open	Offering: STB/Local Budget 9:15am - SS & Church 12:15pm - Visitors Lunch hosted
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10am - Thrift Store Open 12pm - Voice of Prophecy (1160)	8am - Church Office Open 9am - Thrift Store Open	8am - Church Office Open 9am - Thrift Store Open	Church Office Closed 9am - Thrift Store Open 7pm - A/V and Bulletin Deadline 7pm - Bible Study 7pm - Revelation Seminar (Greer,	8am - Church Office Open 9am - Thrift Store Open 7pm - Revelation Seminar (Greer,	8am - Church Office Open 9am - Thrift Store Open	Offering: Women Ministry (NAD) 9:15am - SS & Church 12:15pm - Fellowship Lunch @
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Thrift Store Closed 12pm - Voice of Prophecy (1160)	8am - Church Office Open 9am - Thrift Store Open 5:30pm - Vacation Bible School	8am - Church Office Open 9am - Thrift Store Open 5:30pm - Vacation Bible School 6pm - Finance Committee 7pm - Church Board Meeting	Church Office Closed 9am - Thrift Store Open 5:30pm - Vacation Bible School 7pm - A/V and Bulletin Deadline 7pm - Bible Study (canceled) 7pm - Revelation Seminar (Greer,	8am - Church Office Open 9am - Thrift Store Open 5:30pm - Vacation Bible School 7pm - Revelation Seminar (Greer,	8am - Church Office Open 9am - Thrift Store Open 5:30pm - Vacation Bible School	Offering: Local Budget 9:15am - SS & Church 12:15pm - Visitors Lunch hosted
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Thrift Store Closed 12pm - Voice of Prophecy (1160)	8am - Church Office Open 9am - Thrift Store Open	8am - Church Office Open 9am - Thrift Store Open	Church Office Closed 9am - Thrift Store Open 7pm - A/V and Bulletin Deadline 7pm - Bible Study 7pm - Revelation Seminar (Greer,	8am - Church Office Open 9am - Thrift Store Open 7pm - Revelation Seminar (Greer,	8am - Church Office Open 9am - Thrift Store Open	Offering: Carolina Youth 9:15am - SS & Church 12:15pm - Fellowship Lunch
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
Thrift Store Closed 12pm - Voice of Prophecy (1160)	8am - Church Office Open 9am - Thrift Store Open 6pm - MC Conference	8am - Church Office Open 9am - Thrift Store Open	Church Office Closed 9am - Thrift Store Open 7pm - A/V and Bulletin Deadline 7pm - Bible Study 7pm - Revelation Seminar (Greer,	8am - Church Office Open 9am - Thrift Store Open 7pm - Revelation Seminar (Greer,	8am - Church Office Open 9am - Thrift Store Open	Offering: STB/Local Budget

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- 27 Victoria Moses
- 28 Amy Ford
Bonnie Hornbeck
Pixie Paradis
Barb Sanders
- 29 Carl Edney
LeNoy Kyzer
Terry Robinson
- 30 Kevin Blomeley



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Father's Day Our Heavenly Father

Rosanne Richards

Some may be missing a father that they were close to during their young lives. Others never had the pleasure of a close relationship with their earthly father. But we all have a Heavenly Father who cares for us in ways that no other father could.

Jesus spoke of His Father as being our Father, when He taught His disciples to pray to "Our Father, Who art in heaven." First, we are to hallow, revere, or respect His name. This means we should not use it disrespectfully as in cursing, nor repetitiously, or frivolously. Also, as His children, we represent Him and should not bring dishonor to His name.

Secondly, we look for the day when He returns, and His kingdom will again be upon this earth. Then His will may again be done on this earth, as it is in heaven. Now His will is often subverted on this earth by the consequences of evil.

We should ask for daily bread, or food for this day. Notice it doesn't say monthly or even weekly. We look far into the future as to how it will be provided, but He has promised only daily bread.

We are to ask forgiveness for our debts, but only as we forgive our debtors. The words indicate what we owe, but it also means that God will forgive our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Therefore, we don't have the luxury of holding a grudge, which will ultimately hurt us.

It's always been puzzling to me how God could lead us into temptation, though I do understand His delivering us from evil. The Greek word *peirasmos* that has here been translated temptation can also mean trial, test or testing. This is an understandable concept. It seems much more likely that we will lead ourselves into temptations' paths. We will then need to be delivered from evil.

We need to remember whose kingdom, power and glory are at stake. He only deserves power and glory, for His kingdom is not currently of this world. These forever belong to our Heavenly Father! I am grateful to have a Heavenly Father!

When Dad's Day Comes

by Rosanne Richards



I, like others, no longer have my dad around. I remember what he taught that was sound. His support and protection are part of my memories, But good times remembered don't return by my pleas.

So, it's good if we cherish our fathers now, Spend time when we're able and learn how We can make life better for them on this earth. After all they are responsible that we have a birth!

Maybe say, "I'm glad that you're my dad! You're the best Dad that I could have had. I appreciate everything that you've done... To give my life purposeful meaning and fun."

Start your journey today that can help you in many ways ~ More than just Diabetes and Blood Pressure improvements!

www.timelesshelingsinsights.org/30days/tryon

Nature Nugget -- Year of the Bear

Wanangwa Hartwell

Did you know North Carolina has designated 2023 as the Year of the Trail? All year, you can hike to waterfalls, mountaintops or other amazing places in the state and share your adventures on social media with #yearofthetrail to connect with others who are doing the same. I hope your summer is full of great hikes.

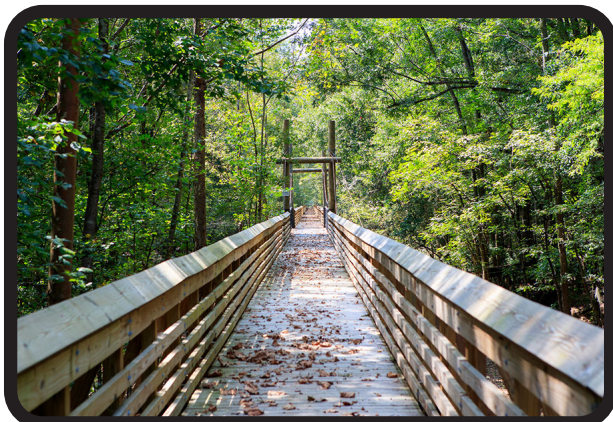
To stay safe when hiking, follow these tips:

- * Research the terrain and weather ahead of time and go properly dressed and equipped.
- * Take plenty of water -- it's easy to get dehydrated.
- * Hike with someone, stay together and let someone back home know when you expect to return.
- * Don't rely on a cell phone or GPS to know where you're going, especially in the mountains where you may not have signal -- use maps.
- * Take a flashlight in case something goes wrong and you're out after dark.
- * If you hike near water, take extra precautions. Stay on the trail and follow instructions. Watch your footing and be very careful when taking pictures -- always make sure your feet are solid before worrying about the perfect shot.

Finally, if you encounter wildlife, stay calm and be smart. Most wildlife just wants to be left alone so try to make a quiet retreat and let them retreat also.



Pearson's Falls – Polk County, NC



Along the Palmetto Trail in South Carolina

COME VISIT THE
CHURCH LIBRARY



Wanangwa Hartwell

The Christian's Summer

Are you looking forward to summer? Or will you miss the cooler seasons? I love summer but even with all the extra time outdoors, I still like to make time to read, especially in the hottest part of the day. God made so many beautiful seasons and changes but we usually refer to winter as a hard time, even if modern conveniences make that more symbolic than actual.

Ellen White talks about the seasons as an illustration of our lives. In *The Upward Look*, page 311, she says:

“This earth is the place of preparation for heaven. The time spent here is the Christian's winter. Here the chilly winds of affliction blow upon us, and the waves of trouble roll against us. But in the near future, when Christ comes, sorrow and sighing will be forever ended. Then will be the Christian's summer. All trials will be over, and there will be no more sickness or death. ‘God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away’ (Revelation 21:4).”

This month in the church library and sharing literature, we will be focusing on that wonderful summer when we can enjoy Heaven and the earth made new forever. I hope you are also looking forward to that glorious day.





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If you have not visited Share Thy Bread or the thrift store, we invite you to come see us. As we continue to expand our programs, our space is rapidly shrinking, but we can always make room for another visitor or volunteer.

We ask for your continued prayers. All over the state and the country, human service organizations like ours struggle to meet the ongoing needs of our neighbors. Food banks especially are having a difficult time providing food for their communities due to a drop in food donations, a longer-than-usual wait time for food orders and an increase in food prices.

During this time, we have been and continue to be grateful for the support we have received in this community. MANNA FoodBank has been wonderfully supportive and we receive substantial donations of food from Food Lion, Dollar General, and Bojangles. During a recent week, we took in over 10,000 pounds of food in a single week from our various sources!

This summer, please consider supporting Share Thy Bread. Donations of excess produce from your garden are highly valued by our neighbors in need. Donations of money can be used for purchasing gas for food deliveries and other supplies, such as cleaning items, in addition to food. These other needs are often not covered by grants.

Time may be the most valued donation of all. There are countless ways to help -- picking up donated items, making deliveries to people's homes, packing up boxes, cleaning and organizing the room, unloading deliveries every other week, signing up people for various programs...we could go on and on. And that is just at Share Thy Bread! Sara and John have another whole list of options for you to help with at the thrift store!

Thank you again for your prayers and your support. We hope you have a wonderful summer and we look forward to seeing you. God bless!

Healthy Highlights – Aiding Weight Control

Bev Cook

Drinking eight glasses of water per day may keep you from gaining excess weight and even help you lose if you are overweight. You may question the logic or validity of this statement but experience shows that it works.

Thirst may be mistaken for hunger. Instead of eating when you have that sensation, take a glass or two of water. The "hunger pain" will probably disappear.

When your water level is low, the kidneys do not function properly. When this occurs, part of the kidney's work is taken over by the liver. One of the main functions of the liver is to metabolize fat into usable energy. If the liver is overloaded, it cannot metabolize all the fat it should. You can help by drinking a couple of glasses of water & allowing your liver to help you lose weight.

You are probably aware that salt retains water in the body. Too much salt in your system may be a problem in water retention. Drinking more water will help you flush out some of the excess salt.

Overweight people need more water than those who have normal body weight. An overweight person needs about one extra glass for every 25 pounds of excess weight. So if you want help in losing weight, reduce calories and increase the amount of fiber in your diet. Try walking at least four miles a day and drink 12 eight ounce glasses of cool water a day.

You may have heard your doctor say, "Get lots of rest and drink plenty of liquids" to many patients with colds, influenza, and other ailments. It still is the best remedy, for a number of reasons.

Water helps fight infections as well as combat fever, toxic fatigue, and the increased metabolism that occurs in most illnesses. Water also helps keep you cool. A warm or cool mitten friction enhances skin evaporation & makes you more comfortable. Your ability to perspire plays an important part in reducing excess body temperature, but this water must be replaced by drinking extra water. Considering all of water's benefits, drink to your health with nature's super tonic - WATER.



Nostalgia, Yearning for the Past

Dick Bayley

A headline in a national newspaper last April read, in part, “Americans Get Nostalgic for...” (old TV shows). A short definition of “nostalgia” is: “a sentimental yearning for the happiness of a former place or time.” (dictionary.com) There likely isn’t an adult alive who hasn’t heard someone refer to the “good old days”, that rosy, uncomplicated life years ago when times were good and regardless of when you were born, life was simpler, at least that’s what observers have written for hundreds, even thousands years.

Another bit of wisdom we hear is this, “today is tomorrow’s ‘good old days’”. Song lyrics are a good place to mine contemporary thought, including our views of the past. What better example right now than “Good ‘Ol Days”, a song by Macklemore & Ryan Lewis, where the lyrics include the following:

“...I wish somebody would have told me

That someday, these will be the good old days.

...maybe you always look back and think it was better than it was.”

Many who feel their life is humdrum are vulnerable to the portrayals of those years presented by the mass media. Images of the time are collected by the followers of a YouTube group called the “Gilded Age”, where you can see photographs of scenes in the late 1800’s, extending into the 20’s. Seeing photos taken at lavish balls, with men in formal wear, tuxedos, white ties and all that, the ladies in long beautiful gowns, women often post comments like, “That was the life”, or “I wish I could have gone to events like that”.

The 1920’s are known now as the “Jazz Age”, when

much of American society was carried away by a spirit of rebellion and alcoholism. In those days, countless mothers were shocked when their daughters came home with bobbed hair, or worse, hid cigarettes in the bedroom. Yet, the partying high life of that era is still alluring to many, with its exciting music and captivating mystique. It’s fair to say that many today wish they could have been part of it.

Yet the times were not all bad. Take men’s clothes for example. There was a dapper way of dressing that caught the attention of today’s famous style leader, Ralph Lauren, whose company initiated a new line in ‘22, inspired by nostalgia for clothing of the 1920’s. Where did their inspiration come from? It came from campus life at two black colleges in Atlanta, Morehouse for men, and Spelman for women. According to the Ralph Lauren company’s account, students at these colleges considered it an important part of their identity to dress well, even through all the dark days their students experienced because of racial issues.

The results for Ralph Lauren’s clothing are partially illustrated by the two photos included here, in the case of men—a line of “Ivy-ish” tweedy 3-piece suits, and for women — very collegiate letter sweaters.

The author of “The Truth About the Good Old Days” quotes a statement by a Gary Ross, who said, “Each era has its own false nostalgia. We all put a picket fence around something. For my generation it was the 50’s, and for other generations it will be something else.” In conclusion, we can read in Ecclesiastes 7:10, “Never ask, ‘Oh why were things so much better in the old days?’ It’s not an intelligent question.” (Good News Translation)

[Sources: Wall Street Journal, 4-24-23. “The Truth About the Good Old Days”, in americanvision.org/16756]



Last year the Ralph Lauren company initiated a new line of clothing for men and women, inspired by nostalgia for 1920’s styles. Photos by Ralph Lauren Company.

We Have Nothing to Fear for the Future

Continued from May's Newsletter

Compiled by Deb Grant for 50th Homecoming, May 1, 2010

The Tryon Seventh-day Adventist School

The school has always been, and will always be, a great priority for the Tryon Church. The Tryon Church is dedicated to support our school in providing a Christian education for all the students, whether there are many or few.

Teachers for the Columbus/Tryon Seventh-day Adventist School

1959 – 1960	Artie Robinson (Derting)
1960 – 1961	Violet Robinson
1961 – 1964	Merlin Wittenberg
1964 – 1968	Mary Lou Cochran
1968 – 1969	Cheryl Jetter/Edna Peel
1969 – 1971	Oscar and Alice Robertson
1971 – 1974	Mr. & Mrs. Wilson Strang
1974 – 1976	Stanley Vera Cruz and Mary Lou Cochran
1976 – 1977	Stanley Vera Cruz (1st semester) Ken Crispens (2nd semester) and Cheryl Orser
1977 – 1979	Cheryl Orser and Jim Kennedy
1979 – 1982	Ed and Lynn Stokeley
1982 – 1985	Loren and Cheryl Herbert
1985 – 1992	Ruthann Demsky Sally Bolling and Elizabeth Giebell
1992 – 1993	Patti Covil
1993 – 1998	Sheri Strong Blake
1998 – 2006	Carly Johnson
1999 – 2002	Jim Minty
2002 – 2004	Peggy Warren
2005 – 2006	Donna Melashenko Carol Gallimore
2007 –	Norma Collson, Jackie Green
2009 –	Norma Collson, Jackie Green (Certified)
Currently	Norma Collson, Jackie Green and aide Lisa Randolph

This school has been blessed with many great teachers as well as others who have given of themselves for special projects or to help with the school however needed. Here is a list of volunteers whose names have been recorded and apologies go out to anyone who deserves to be on this list but has been left out. Elizabeth Giebell; Lisa Johnson; Jan Sampson; Lisa Randolph; Dixie Painter; John Painter; Carol Gallimore; Becky Oliver.

Since 1997 Odila Oliver has offered beginning piano lessons to interested students at no charge. She still does this today and averages 12 students a year.

Today we have two teachers, a teacher's aide and a host of parents, family and volunteers to assist our twenty-four students in a Christian education. The school is a very active part of our church.

A NOTE FROM OUR CURRENT PRINCIPAL

Norma Collson, 2007 - current – School year '07-08 we went back to two teachers and two-rooms. Mrs. Green worked with Mrs. Collson until she got her degree in 2009. Mrs. Randolph is our full time aide. Enrollment for the past three years has been 24 students with a possibility of approximately 30 for the next school year ('10-11).

We have adopted a new and very exciting reading program that has really helped even the readers who have struggled in the past. Our school programs are very strong academically as well as spiritually.

Our music program has been topnotch for the last three years as we began band again with Band Director Mr. Linquist from Fletcher Academy coming down twice a week. We have averaged about 13 band members in the past three years. Jonathan Gallimore and Bethany Painter have led Bell Choir in our 2006-2007 season. Mrs. Krum has directed our bell choir from 2008-2010. In '08-'09 our bell choir went to the Music Festival at Pisgah where they performed with the largest bell choir to date. Each year our students in grades 5-8 have attended the Music Festivals. Mrs. Oliver has offered free beginning piano lessons to all interested students averaging about 12 students a year.

The school has had many interesting field trips. Some of our favorites have been the BMW Plant, Columbia Zoo, Corn Maze, and Bays Mountain where we all got to ride on a touring bus!

Fall Festivals and Spring Picnics have been highlights in our school. We enjoy all the outdoor activities.

Some school improvements have included a new storage shed, fencing in the playground and an updated computer lab with 14 computers, projectors in each room and new wipe boards that also serve as projector screens. We are very proud of our school and do all we can to keep it as nice as possible.

Yard sales have really helped to support our school over the years with approximately \$12,000 a year. We thank all the people for their support in this area.

School plays have been very spiritual, uplifting and memorable. Our first play was on Jesus' birth, death and the second coming. Our next play was entitled "The Gift" which focused on Jesus' birth. Our latest play was in December and was a brave endeavor by all. This was our first outdoor play and we had live animals, the bell choir, the band, speaking parts and a church/school choir. This event was held on the front lawn of the church and many people came from the community. The evening of the play was clear and really cold and fire bowls were placed in the audience to give some relief. The Lord really looked out after us because the next morning everyone was snowed in. What a blessing a few hours makes! The whole event proved to be a real blessing.

Worships led by Pastor Young and Pastor Gibbs has inspired all of us at the school. For Bible classes we have done the Truth for Youth evangelist meetings program, studied the Great Controversy and wonderful Bible stories. Talking about Jesus and learning to be serving Christians is very important to our school.

We Have Nothing to Fear for the Future

Continued from page 7

Compiled by Deb Grant for 50th Homecoming, May 1, 2010

If you were to visit our school you will see beautifully decorated classrooms, happy students and staff. We are a big family preparing for Jesus' soon coming.

Bell Choir History

Information provided by Sheri Blake, Carly Johnson Hadley and Carol Gallimore and Bethany Painter

Carly "Miss J." Johnson Hadley

It all really began with a dream – a very distant dream that seemed hedged with impossibilities at the time. Carly (Johnson) Hadley had spent four years playing in the hand bell choir at Union College and wished that someday she could have a hand bell choir made up of elementary students. Knowing how expensive hand bells are, she knew that may never be a reality. Then came the interview at the Tryon SDA School – and the question that someone raised about maybe getting a set of bells or chimes. But that was all it was, a random question. Efforts to raise money towards a set of bells began when Sheri Blake was teaching during the school year of 1997-98.

During Carly's first year of teaching, there was more talk about a bell choir, and Violet and Joe Weiss were at the forefront of that talk. By the next year, the school needed a second teacher, and Jim Minty accepted the call. The money was raised and the bells purchased and put into immediate use under Jim's able direction around December 1999.

The following school year, the bells became a school-wide operation with the upper grade bell group and a beginner group from the lower grades. The bell choir went on its first tour to West Virginia, where they played at Miracle Meadows School, SDA churches and elementary schools, and an African-American church on Sunday morning (by far the most exuberant church we ever performed in!).

With the help and encouragement of Jenny Sossong, the bell choir took on a new venture and produced its first CD in 2003 under the direction of Carly (Johnson) Hadley. Two more CD projects followed, one of which was a Christmas collection. The Tryon SDA Bell Ringers have performed in malls, churches, nursing homes, private homes, a TV station, schools, campmeeting, and music festivals. Many of the players have gone on to become musicians on other instruments, and some are writing and directing their own musical compositions.

The bell choir has likely been one of the most positive aspects of the Tryon SDA School in that it has fostered a great love of music, given opportunities for travel and performance, encouraged those who might never have realized their gifts in music, and created memories that will remain throughout our lifetimes. God has truly blessed through the generosity of the Tryon church members and friends, the hard work of parents and students, and a vision that became a reality.

Former hand bell ringers, many of whom will play in the

reunion bell choir, include the following*: Tabitha and Philip Amoroso; Janel and Gerald Tary; Josh, Caleb and Kendra Minty; Jonathan, Alex and Whitney Gallimore; Daniel, Stephanie and Rebecca Sossong; Dakota and Gage Hines; Annelise, Jens and Marita Grindley; Daniel and Nichole Sampson; Jill Sampson; Marina and Fernando Guerrero; Marji and Melanie Ritterhoff; Beth and Sarah Painter; Wanangwa Dever; Ryan, Bryce and Kaylee Sasso; Chris Carney; Ryan Eckmann; Matthew Wellman; Kasey Reynolds; Steven and Nathan Green; Chris and Cody Heyer; Seth DeTar; Cameron Randolph; Ethan and Jordan Timothy; Rachel McBee; Jodi Smith; Jessica Hughes; Mindy Hicks; Joe Taylor Merrell, Austin Gray, Katelyn Green, Olivia Merrell, Jonathan Sanderson, Nicholas Wahlman, Alex West, Amelia McCall, Darryl Wesson, Sarah Inman, Sarah Wahlman, Sara Collson, Eric Collson, Austin Krum, Jonathan Mencias, Andrew Coleman and Katie Queen.

*This list does not include any student who spent only a short time at the Tryon SDA School and moved on, or students who may have been some of the first to play the bells as the group was getting started in the spring of 2000. Some of them would have graduated without being able to take full advantage of the bell program, but we thank them for being the "guinea pigs" as the group developed.

Carol Gallimore – Bethany and Jonathan directed the Bell Choirs from Dec. 2007- May 2009. Alex directed for a short time at the beginning of the 2008- 2009 school year. The school Bell choir would have died right there if these kids had not been determined to keep it going.

During this same span of time, right after Carly left, the Youth Class at church (that consisted of Carly's students) decided to play for Church and because of that one performance, they decided to keep on practicing and playing on occasion, directed by Gerald Tary. The group consisted of (from what I can remember): Steven Green, Tabby Amoroso, Jonathan, Alex, and Whitney Gallimore, Bethany & Sarah Painter, Annelise Grindley, Chris Heyer, Melanie Ritterhoff, Stephanie Sossong, Gerald Tary. Because of demands on their time from school they weren't able to keep it going for long. The adult Bell Choir consisted of: Keith Amoroso, John Painter, Jackie Green, Jenny Sossong, Lorraine Wellman, Wanangwa Dever, Judy Schulz, Jan (Sampson) Gallimore, Carol Gallimore, Tabitha Amoroso. It was around 2003 sometime.

Bethany Painter – I directed the bell choir from December 2007 until May 2008. It consisted of ALL of the school kids from that year, I'm bad at remembering names, but I do know that if you can get a list of the students that year that will be the list of my bell choir(s). It was very important to Jonathan and me to keep the same rules and institutions Ms. J had set up so we made sure that every student from every grade was able to play. It was interesting and challenging but we made it happen. Jonathan was a great co-director and I'm proud of the work he and I were able to do together.

NOTES FROM FORMER TEACHERS

Carly "Miss J" Johnson Hadley, 1998-2006 – Events that

We Have Nothing to Fear for the Future

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stand out – Birthday parties for Mr. Minty. The time when the upper grades classroom stole the Christmas tree from the lower grades' room and put a dead stick in its place. When Matthew Wellman and Trevor Giebell rigged my office with balloons, hoping they would pop every time I did something in there (it didn't work). The 8th grade class mission trip in 2005! Chris Heyer, Gerald Tary, and Alex Gallimore singing the Hallelujah Chorus early in the morning from the balcony of the Laurelbrook Academy Lodge. School Board Appreciation dinners. Music festivals at Fletcher Academy. Speech classes in the upper grades!! The smell of burnt popcorn and ramen noodles at lunch time (students, you know who you are). The upper grades singing "Hey, Hey Mon" with sunglasses on!!! Greatest joys – The baptisms of many of my students!! The musical talents of the kids I have taught. Supportive parents and board members. Having so many students on the honor roll in academy. The miracle of getting a bus for the school. All the community service hours we put in. Working with a fantastic staff of teachers, aides and pastors.

Biggest challenges – Fitting in everything you want to do with the kids! Personality conflicts. Holding a high standard for academics and spirituality. Knowing how to handle school discipline. Not being able to meet the needs of every student. Not having eyes in the back of my head!!

Mrs. Peggy Warren, 2002 - 2004 – Peggy Warren came from the Georgia-Cumberland – Conference to Tryon to teach grades 1 - 4. The first year the room was decorated in all kinds of bears. We spent a lot of time learning about bears. We even had a bear mascot who went on trips with the students. Most of the students that year were in the 3rd and 4th grades and the 5th & 6th graders joined us for Social Studies and Science. We took several field trips to museums to enhance our program.

That year was the big ice storm and we were without electricity for several days, even though I was told that we didn't get snow and ice here. Remember that conversation Vi?

We raised funds to get new computers for our classroom and in the summer Jeff Sossong and Courtney Gallimore set up a computer lab for our classroom. This was really great for all of our research work and for learning how to type. We also got a large screen TV for the classroom.

We enjoyed Jackie Green and Jan Sampson coming in each week and teaching Art.

For PE we improved our health by walking each day. We walked many miles throughout the year. We played lots of games to improve our skills.

Sarah Painter started 3rd grade that year. She was the only 3rd grader. She was a newly baptized member of the church. Everything was new to her but she adapted very well. Everyone did his or her best to help her feel welcome. The 4th grade was all boys. They had lots of fun together. This was Nathan's first year at school also.

We were excited as new students joined our classroom. Marita, Emily, Taylor and Gage were new students, and Whitney returned from Home School.

That year our classroom's theme was - "Around the World in 80 Days". We had items from every continent on display around the room. During the first week of school we took the most fabulous field trip ever. I made arrangement for the kids and their families to go to Asheville to take hot air balloon rides. They tethered the balloon in the field and then the kids and their parents were able to go up in the balloon and come back down. It was a once in a lifetime field trip.

The 5th and 6th graders joined us again for Science and Social Studies as we studied about the different continents. We did lots of activities and reports about each continent.

Another exciting unit that year was about Community Helpers. We took field trips, had guest speakers and even went on a tour of the Mexican Restaurant. We had a dentist, nurse, builder and many more who came to our classroom to tell us about their jobs. We had a tour of the hospital and a grocery store and we visited the fire department and police station. This was a great experience for the kids to learn about jobs for their future.

Willie and I were the sponsors for the 8th grade class trip. All six kids worked hard to raise the money go to Williamsburg in our motor home. This was definitely an educational History tour. We went to the restored village, Jamestown and several other history sites. One of the best things they enjoyed was a special visit to the beach hunting shells and artifacts at the home of a former student of mine at Tappahannock. We also toured a lighthouse on the base outside of Newport Beach. We swam in the pool every night and did some shopping. The worst thing that happened was the blowout of a tire on the way home. We had a great time and came home with money in our pocket. It was decided that the left over money would be used toward their class gift to the school which you all now enjoy in the form of the picnic area down by the river. They bought the concrete table, benches, swing, flowers and bushes.

My third year started off with an Archaeology Dig. I had buried shells, special rocks, fairy stones, and etc in plaster-of-Paris and sand. When it dried it was hard. The students had little picks to pick away at the dig. They were so excited when they found something.

Daniel joined our classroom that year. We were busy with all of our activities as we focused on the United States. We had a huge map of the US on the wall. We read lots of books on pioneers especially the Little House series. One of the projects we worked on was making rag blankets. Each child including Daniel who was in 2nd grade made a quilt. They each sewed their own. We had projects and reports. They did a great job with their reports and in learning their states and capitols.

This was a really hard year for me as I had finished my Professional Certificate at summer school in Collegedale and when I got home I had to have back surgery before school started and it just seemed that I could not recover from the pain. Thanks to Carol Gallimore, who was a wonderful

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substitute, we made it through the year and I had to take early retirement at the end of the school year.

I will always remember Tryon, the wonderful kids and their families. I will always treasure the quilt that you all made. I read the messages that you wrote and they remind me of you. Carly, 'thank you' for being there as a fellow teacher, and to the School Board for your support. It was a great 3 years of my life. I miss all of you!

Jim Minty, 1999 - 2002 – Recollections of Our Years at Tryon SDA School. Let me preface my thoughts with our regrets for not being able to be with you this weekend. We would have loved to come and spend some time with past students and friends. Alas, Potomac Conference Music Festival calls. So now you know that at least I am doing something else this weekend that I love.

I can still remember that phone call I received from Violet Weiss one evening asking me if I knew of anyone who might be selling some hand bells. Unfortunately, I knew of no one. But in the course of our discussion I asked her if she knew of anyone who was hiring and she said that Tryon was discussing the possibility. It wasn't long until I was saying yes to an invitation from the school board to accept a teaching position here in Tryon.

It was a wonderful move for us. It was a small school with a wonderful teacher, Miss Carly Johnson teaching at the 1-4 level with a dedicated and loving teacher aide, Mrs. Elizabeth Giebell. While we were there the school continued to grow to just about the right size to fill our classrooms. Miss Johnson's efforts and the groundwork she had laid before we arrived made much of this grow possible. It was pretty neat to be stepping into a virtually brand new school.

One of the people who ranks at the top of my list in supporting the education program in Tryon and is such an encouragement to me, and an example of "nothing is too hard for the Lord" is Sherry Carney. I can remember telling her what it was going to cost to get a set of hand bells for the school and she said to go ahead and order them because she was sure that we could raise the money by the time the bells were ready to be shipped to us. And sure enough, the bill was paid on time. Sherry never let little things get in her way of doing big things and her support led us to forming our first hand bell choir in the Tryon SDA School. The kids had a great time learning to play and I believe that Miss Johnson and I had just as much fun teaching them. I still remember our bell tour to West Virginia. What a lot of fun that was!

Along with Sherry's optimistic views was a church family that pretty much agreed with her. If we wanted to do something at school the church family always got behind it and helped in both a physical and financial way. Thank you for your commitment!

Then there was the band. I felt bad leaving a band behind at my previous school and we decided that maybe we could get a small band going in Tryon. Thanks to Mrs. Oliver

coming in every week and helping teach lessons, it wasn't long until the students had gained enough knowledge and skill to be able to play a few numbers for our school programs. I can still picture Eddie Sasso beating on a cardboard box for a bass drum because we didn't have one. But he continued to practice and was rewarded at concert time with a real bass drum that we borrowed from Fletcher Academy for the occasion.

Other things I recall were Friday morning joint worships with singing and Miss J telling stories of the way things were in Montana. There were softball games, dodge ball, and volleyball for our PE classes. I still remember the day that I thought I could make it around some of the boys carrying the football who were getting pretty big, only to find myself crowded off the field and into the briar patch. For some reason the guys thought it was hilarious. There were also the Field Days each year and field trips. Class trips included trips to Myrtle Beach, Washington, D.C., and Atlanta.

Those were some pretty fun days. I think we also did a little reading, writing, and arithmetic, but we won't dwell on that. I'm sure I have left out many things but these were some of the highlights. We often think about our days in Tryon and remember all the good friendships we had and still have. Thank you for the wonderful years.

Sherry Strong Blake, 1993 - 1998 – I began my five years of teaching at the Tryon SDA School in the summer of 1993. It was actually called Columbus SDA School at the time. The school board, with Tom Bolling as chairman, hired me knowing that I only had 2 definite students at the time for the upcoming school year. This showed me how dedicated Tryon was to having a church school. Most churches would just shut their school down if they only had two students. I ended up with five students that school year all in grades 1-4. They were Jessica Hughes, Chris Carney, Benji Giebell, Trevor Giebell, and Chrisy Harms. Meghan Eckmann joined us later towards the end of that school year. I had a great first year of teaching with that small group of wonderful students who are now all grown up! It seems hard to believe, and it makes me feel old.

The school years of 1993-1995 were spent at the old location off of Red Fox Rd. in Columbus. It was wonderful having a school out in the country. I remember there being a beautiful white turkey from Lance and Laura Flournoy's home up the road that would come visit us on occasion. The turkey would gobble its way around the school looking in the windows. I have to say that it was a bit hard to keep the students' attention with a turkey looking in the window and gobbling up a storm. Who could do long division with that kind of distraction?

That school building was sold the spring of 1995 to Joe and Violet Weiss who remodeled the school into a beautiful home. The new school was not yet built so we had to set up the classroom in the top floor of the Morgan Center for the next school year. Roger Peden was chairman at the time with Earl Hornbeck following him. I had 13 students that year, and we were cramped in a very small classroom. However, we were very excited about the new school building going up right outside the gymnasium. The students got to watch the

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progress of their new school building being built all year long. The whole church really came together to build the new school building. It was an amazing thing to be a part of. Does anyone remember clipping all those hangers? We clipped thousands of hangers as a fundraiser. There were several Sundays that we would have work bees. Those who could actually help with the building of the school would be outside doing that, and then the rest of us would be inside clipping sizes on hangers. At noon we would all gather together and eat. I have never looked at a hanger in a department store the same way since. Those are really some fond memories, and I am so thankful I got to be a part of all of that. Our own church members did almost all the work done on the school. We opened the new school building in August of 1996 completely debt free!

I taught in Tryon for two more years in the current school building. I am so glad that the school is well and strong today with two teachers, and that it is still being a blessing to the church and its community. We will never know the total results of providing our children with Christian education until we get to heaven.

Ruthann Demsky Harrelson, 1985 - 1992 – I fondly remember the Columbus SDA School as it was called when I taught there. It was a great learning environment with supportive parents and church members. As we played outside it was not uncommon for Pauline Mazat to drive by in her convertible and give us a friendly wave. Whenever Ron Herman would drive in or out past the school in his 18-wheeler, he would toot the horn, and his children would fly out the door to say hello or good-bye. Art Kennedy and George Robinson often made classroom visits that were always uplifting. Of course, we can't forget the many, many hours of choir work that Linda Herman gave to the school. When I feel the need of a pick-me-up I can still recall that group singing "He's Still Working on Me".

Who can forget the numerous jellybean hunts we had in the spring? I know from correspondence I've recently received that these kids enjoyed that so much that they have continued jellybean hunts with their own children!

Our classroom enjoyed playing ball outside, kick the can, capture the flag in the woods, and poison ball on the pavement. The beauty of our country location offset dispatching the copperhead snakes and terminating the black widow spiders. Pastor Heisey often came with a nature nugget that taught a spiritual lesson. His visits were a time that teacher and students alike looked forward to.

Reunions are always fun and reminiscing is pleasant, but I am looking forward to the final reunion around the Tree of Life. I hope to see all my former students there.

Loren and Cheryl Herbert, 1982 – 1985 – The students and faculty of Columbus Seventh-day Adventist School were blessed by having the unique distinction of meeting in a charming house-school with the most awe-inspiring views

to be found. The dispositions of the students, combined with the peaceful surroundings made teaching and learning a joy.

Mr. Art Kennedy's horse, Lady, who lived across the road, graciously shared her small pasture (with ALL that implies) with the students for their softball, kickball, football, and soccer games. Occasionally she would join in the games. She did some major blocking.

Because the students were eager to learn and willing to work hard, there was time for many extra fields of investigation, such as photography, amateur radio (we listened to the space shuttle directly for three minutes of an orbit), witnessing (we held weekly AY meetings in the lobby of Ridge Rest, and the students were always planning something to brighten the days of the friends they made there), drama (we put on two or three major plays each year), student apprenticeships at community businesses, astronomy (we photographed a solar eclipse, and were published in the Thermal Belt News Journal), model rocketry, art (with memories of Vera Herbert who came down from Fletcher each week) science experiments, camping and tubing in the Smokey Mountains, pottery, and weaving. Along with Dr. Blomeley's top Pathfinder club in the conference we had backpacking, welding and cake decorating.

Music was very important. During those three school years every student from second grade up, was in the school band, which became very good for an elementary school. (Thank you John and Odila Oliver, for giving up your lunch breaks to come and join us.) The school offered highly qualified piano teachers for those who wished to take lessons. Every student was in an SATB choir (thank you Elaine Parris and Linda Herman for many hours of accompaniment at practice).

The school was very involved with the church, for the youth need to feel ownership of and responsibility to a church or the chances of permanence are small. The church was very involved in the school, for they realized the youth are the church future. Our pastors during those years, Wayne Martin and Mark Heisey, were both exceptional in their willingness to contribute to the school program, and were beloved by the students.

Success of those years of Columbus Seventh-day Adventist school can be measured in many ways: the extremely high scores the students made on the standardized tests; the percentage of students who finished high school, college, and beyond; demonstrations of students' talents; but the greatest proof of all is seeing the impression of Jesus on the hearts and lives of the students. Those three years and all the precious parents, church members, and especially students they encompass, hold a special place in our hearts and memories.

Mary Lue Cochran, This was Columbus Church School in 1964 - 1968 – There it was! A little country school nestled amidst the hills, in such peaceful surroundings. The pretty horses and the woolly sheep grazed in a nearby field. What a place to learn! Six students, quickly growing to nine and about sixty people in the church; one big family! What memories!

Reflections – Older students helping the younger ones;

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good sportsmanship; plays and programs with practice, practice, practice; white capes with red bows in front of the bulletin board; Jesus: Whiter Than Snow. What a joy to hear those first graders sounding out even long Bible words.

Does anyone remember 'The Cave?' Students had their own leader; a good learning experience for cooperation, organization and working within a group.

Who could forget Friday afternoon cleaning period when we readied the school by setting it up for Sabbath School and Church. What a 'dream school!

When I came back to teach the second time 1973 -1976, I found it more challenging. The enrollment had about doubled to eighteen or so. The students had been through their own challenges and had banded together as one unit. However, I remember the great day and the student who helped the school as individuals work together. I commend him until this day. The great Columbus Church School was back!

Unique tidbits: At least three students had changed their names from before! It was also a wonderful experience to come back in time to 'graduate' the eighth graders that I had started in the first grade.

We had wonderful music. It seemed there was an unusual amount of musical talent. From all the seven years, I remember: the good, hardworking students, the band, the plays that were acted out and the fun programs, the humorous social programs, the good singing, the one student's spider bite, another student's broken thumb, the banding together to cheer a student in the hospital after falling out of a tree, and I repeat, the cave, and many other memories of the good old days. I have fond memories of the school years in Columbus. **Merlin Wittenberg, 1961 -1964** – I arrived in Columbus, NC in the fall of 1961 after being interviewed and hired by Dr. Roy Morgan at Lake Junaluska during Campmeeting. The school and church were located down the hill from the Kennedy's home. The first year I think we had 7 students in 5 grades. One

thing I remember was that one of the parents, Mrs. Robinson, had taught the school the year before I came and I was a bit intimidated since this was my first teaching experience. Dr. Morgan was a very patient school board chairman and gave me a lot of very good advice.

That first year we did not have any playground equipment except for some balls and a baseball bat. The playground was the parking lot for the church. By the second year we had been given a teeter-totter and a swing set and a set of monkey bars from another school at Pisgah. The second year started off with Johnny Underwood swinging on the monkey bars and breaking his arm, which Dr. Morgan fixed. Some of the activities that everyone enjoyed were the campouts, picnics, and Sabbath hikes up to the falls. Since the school was located in the country we enjoyed studying nature. The students made scrapbooks of leaves that they identified.

My 3rd and last year at Columbus we found a 5-foot black racer snake behind the school. The enrollment of the 3rd year had grown to 10 students in 6 grades. The older students would help the younger students with classes in order to get all 6 grades taught. One interesting story happened when I noticed one of the students squirming around in their seat and one of the younger girls spoke up and said, "Maybe she has ants in her pants". I said, "that doesn't not sound very nice " to which the younger student replied, "well, maybe it is only worms"! Teaching at Columbus was a great place to start my 42-year journey in education.

