

BETHLEHEM STAR

The newsletter of Bethlehem Original Free Will Baptist Church

January—February 2014



Photo by Vicki Quinn

Celebrating 100 years of ministry!

Regularly Scheduled Activities and Opportunities

Sunday 10:00 AM Sunday School
11:00 AM Worship Service
Wednesday 7:00 PM Bible Study
Youth Meetings
8:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

Quarterly Business Meetings and Communion Services are scheduled on announced Sunday evenings in January, April, July and October.

Upcoming Events:

- 1-26-14 6:00 pm Quarterly Communion
- 1-27-14 7:15 pm Pulpit Committee Meeting
- 2-1-14 5:00 pm MOU Girls vs. N Greenville
7:00 pm MOU Boys vs. N Greenville
See Flyer on page 4 for more details.
- 2/6-8/14 Schedule for Bethlehem Centennial
Directory Photographs
See Marcia Jones, Mary Jo Brown, Sandra Miller or register online at:
Online Link:
<https://www.securedata-trans/4.com/ap/bethlehemfreebaptist/index.php?page10>
See Flyer on page 5 for more details
- 2-15-14 Valentine Banquet - Tickets \$10.00
See Diane Dail or Susan Fountain
- 2-28-14 Restore One Ministries
presentation at Mount Olive
University on Human Trafficking.
Youth Leaders are encouraged to attend.
- 3-1-14 MOU Sunday School Workshops
See Rosa Craft or Rita Fountain
- 3-1-14 Northeast Women's Conference
Registration deadline 2-22-14
See flyer on page 6 for more details.
- 3-29-14 March Madness @ FWB Children's Home
Bethlehem vs. Children's Home.
See Coach Chris Byron to sign up.

• LEADING

• UNITING

• EQUIPPING

• SERVING



January Birthdays

2 Stanley Craft

7 Dawn Byron

8 Diane Dail

11 Shonnon McClenny

14 Allen Pickett

15 Caden Lanier

17 Durwood Williams

20 Mary Hudson
Kathleen Southerland
Truman Waller

21 Guy Williams
Jonathan Dempsey
Haley Craft

23 Caron Fountain

25 Mark Lanier

27 John Bryan

30 Reid Southerland
Ricky Dempsey



February Birthdays

3 Ella Fountain
Garrett McClenny
Linda Whitehurst

4 Geno Jones

5 Caleb Ard

12 John Southerland

17 Mike Greene

20 Victoria Bryan

23 Brettany Brock
Tori Jones Van Buren

24 Chasity Rich Brown

26 Carson Maddox Brown

28 Annette F Brown
Zelma Martin



Anniversaries

1-7 Vernie & Susan Fountain

2-11 Herb & Nancy Ripley

2-22 Micky & Hilda Southerland

2-28 Don & Alice Horne

The Peace of Music

By Wendy F. Fountain

Have you ever seen or heard of people such as little old ladies who cry at the opera? Well, I am a member of that small group when I hear the church choir sing. Yes, I am one of the gals who tears up when I hear soothing music.

Musical notes are sounds I hear well. I've had a cochlear implant, and the last time I had a check up with the audiologists, I was tested on musical sounds. The task was to determine which of two sounds was the loudest. The two sounds were different in pitch, so it required some concentration not to pick the note that was the most extreme pitch. I did well with this test, and the audiologists were excited by it. I wasn't too surprised since I love to listen to music.

I like instrumental music whether it's a solo pianist or a symphony. I love choral music, whether it's accompanied by piano or without. I've recently listened to recordings of an *a cappella* choir. 'My Faith Looks Up To Thee' is so comforting that I get teary eyed like the old ladies at the opera. I am also likely to get misty-eyed, if not outright gushing with tears down my face, when I hear our church choir sing 'Peace On Earth.' A song such as this touches my heart.

The peace of music soothes our souls, and it is the Holy Spirit of God who is present in the music. This peace can fill our hearts and souls and minds. Music is a gift from the Lord. It is a gateway to the soul.

If a person does not have music, that person can still have a close connection to God. This would be the case for a deaf person or perhaps for faiths that do not wish to detract from God's presence with singing or music. I for one do not think it detracts. David in the Psalms wrote about music, and he truly delighted in music which was inspired by the Lord. Many, many people sense the presence of God in music.

Here's a quote that is staggering. "Beautiful music is the art of the prophets that can calm the agitations of the soul; it is one of the most magnificent and delightful presents God has given us." Martin Luther wrote this over 500 years ago. That quote made me smile with delight because music is as Luther said, a magnificent and delightful present from God. Here's another one to consider.

"Music is the movement of sound to reach the soul for the education of its virtue." This was written by Plato. My audiologists **would** be silenced, so to speak, by the truth of this quote.

There's so many different types of songs we sing at church or listen to the choir sing. I suppose that I indicate my age when I say that I love the old songs, the traditional hymns that I grew up hearing. There's nothing wrong with that; however, if I only listened to the songs I know I wouldn't hear a new song such as 'Peace on Earth' that the choir sang at Christmastime. It was magnificent and delightful, and the presence of the Savior was felt in the heart, the mind, and the soul.

Wendy Fountain

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

This newsletter is another opportunity for ministry. It is only as effective as our contributions. Please take this opportunity to become involved. Ask God to lay something on your heart that you could share with the body to uplift and encourage someone.

We are now accepting materials for the next publication for March-April edition. Don't wait until the last minute.

Submissions for publication and corrections should be submitted to vernie.fountain@centurylink.net.

Observe:

Have you observed how the Holy Spirit is speaking through the various speakers that have delivered the morning message each Sunday since we have been without a pastor? WOW!!!

It is obvious to me that God has placed on their hearts exactly what we need to hear at this time in our ministry. NOW....

Are we going to do more than hear God speaking? Friends, we MUST do more than hear it. We must DO it. vef

MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE

The 31st Annual

BASKETBALL CHURCH NIGHT

Saturday, February 1, 2014

MOC Women vs. North Greenville, 5:00 p.m., Kornegay Arena
MOC Men vs. North Greenville, 7:00 p.m., Kornegay Arena

- **Special Admission: \$1.00**
- **Special Recognition** to the Church with largest attendance
- **Halftime Competitions** include Youth & Youth Pastor Shoot-outs

Please RSVP by Monday, January 27th, 2014
To reserve your tickets, call or e-mail Tim Woodard
(919) 658-7793 or twoodard@moc.edu

Gameday Sposored by:

Buddy's Jewelry



Dinner will be served in the Cafeteria from 4:00-6:00 PM. Price \$6.50 per person, does not include game admission. Proceeds go to support the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Please RSVP for dinner when you reserve your tickets.

Chicken Tenders, Fries, Baked Spaghetti, Assorted Vegetables, Garlic Bread, Pizza, Salad Bar and Assorted Desserts.

MAKE-A-WISH[®]

More details on the Centennial Church Directory Photographs for your review.

Join us as we
CONNECT
our families

Do you know the names of the people sitting around you?
Help us to build a tool that will put names with faces. Be a part of our new family directory program—we need YOU to make our new family album complete!

Each family will receive a complimentary 8x10 portrait and free directory for participating!

Schedule your photography session today!
Look for details in your bulletin



Lifetouch
Connecting You through Family Photography

www.lifetouch.com

300-01482 • Rev 1/13

Be Yourself!
Classic, casual, musical, sporty, fun... it's up to you!



Portraits make great gifts



Bring special items and special people

- Bring meaningful items that express your individuality: sports equipment, musical instruments, hobby items, special toys or books.
- Invite grandparents and other family members/loved ones to join your portrait sitting (even if they are not members).

"We invited our children to our portrait session!"



The above brochure details the upcoming opportunity for you to have your photograph placed into the Bethlehem FWB Centennial Directory. Opportunities for you to have family or group photographs, photographs with pets, etc. are available. Photography sessions will be available Thursday through Saturday, February 6-8. Scheduling can be made online at the following link:

<https://www.securedata-trans/4.com/ap/bethlehemfreebaptist/index.php?page10>

For those who are not technically inclined or do not have convenient internet access, you may schedule with Marcia Jones, Mary Jo Brown, or Sandra Miller. See them at church or give them a call. Don't wait till the last minute to book your session as the time slots will be filling up.

Marcia Jones	910-298-5127
Mary Jo Brown	910-324-1228
Sandra Miller	910-455-8987

Northeast Women's Conference

Live with Passion

† John 3:18 Dear children,
let us not love with words
or speech but with actions
and truth.

129 Hanchey Road, Wallace, NC 28466

March 1st

8:30am-9:30am Registration

9:30am Conference Starts

Deadline for Registration is February 22

This conference is to ignite a passion within each and every woman to live in action for God. The one day conference serves women of all generations, ethnicities and backgrounds. Come and join us at Northeast Church. Lunch will be provided.

Guest Speakers

LaWanada Hill, Pastor of Eagle's Nest in Hubert

Kem Lancaster, Pastor of Heart of David in Eureka

Jennifer Kostyal, Speaker, Author, and Founder of Transformed by the Word Ministries in Wilmington

Please register through Facebook or contact Brooks Sumner at brookswt1m@hotmail.com

Search: Northeast Women's Conference

MINISTRY SPOTLIGHTS

Wednesday Night Bible Study

Great discussions are under way during the Wednesday night Bible Study. Come join in the study of great biblical truths with applications to daily life beginning at 7:00 pm. The study group is currently enjoying leader/teacher Cameron Fountain as he directs the focus on the basic biblical principals that every new believer should know to be prepared to grow in their relationship with Christ. Don't miss out on this opportunity for spiritual growth.



LADIES AUXILIARY

The Ladies Auxiliary meets monthly on the Thursday before 2nd Sunday at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Ladies are invited to attend and become a part of the ladies ministry at Bethlehem.

SENIOR FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY

Our Senior Fellowship Ministry meets monthly on the 4th Thursday at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.



Following the meal, a speaker shares from God's Word and special music is provided.

Senior adults are invited to attend and become a part of this ministry.

MEDIA MINISTRY OUTREACH



Recordings of the Adult Sunday School Class in the Auditorium and the Morning Worship Service are made in CD and DVD format and are available free for your review and to share with others who may be shut in and unable to attend services.

PRAYER CHAIN

The Bethlehem Prayer Chain actively responds to your requests for prayer. Contact Prayer Chain Director Elvis Fountain at 324-4637 to report your requests. Shortly thereafter, the prayer team is activated and your requests will be raised in a concert of prayer by our active prayer team.

PRAYER CHANGES THINGS



Contribution Report

The Treasurer reported the following averages for our weekly contributions for the years, 2012, 2013 and the first three weeks of 2014.

- 2012 Weekly Average Contributions: \$ 2,871.29
- 2013 Weekly Average Contributions: \$ 2,969.24
- 2014 Weekly Average Contributions: \$ 3,727.85
- 2014 Weekly Budget: \$ 3,036.36
- 2014 Annual Budget: \$157,875.00

Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will

not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. Mal 3:10 KJV



The Significance of Church Membership

By Vernie E. Fountain

Recently, while reviewing our church directory and developing a database of the membership, I began to see that we have an excellent opportunity, from that list for enhanced ministry, if everyone on that list were more actively involved in ministry. Questions came to mind as to what significance do we place on having our name listed on a church roll? What does it mean to have your name on the church roll at Bethlehem?

Before I go further, I want to clarify that joining the church to have your name listed on the church roll is no guarantee of your salvation. There is only one way to be saved, that is to accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. Then your name will be placed in the Lamb's Book of Life which will be reviewed at the judgment. Your name on that roll is the most important thing in your life. Make sure, without a doubt that your name is listed on God's roll book.

So what is the significance of your name on the church roll? What does that mean to you? What should it mean? Taking membership signifies that you have become a member, or a part of an organization. In other words, the significance is that you belong to the organization and are an integral part. As a part of an organization you either contribute or detract from its effective and efficient function. With respect to membership with a specific church, as a member, you either are building it up or bringing it down, depending on how committed and dedicated you are to that church. Consider God's word about it. In Rom 12:4-5 (KJV) "Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ's body.

We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other." 1 Cor 12:12-13 (NLT) The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ.

The church is compared to our bodies. When you consider the human body, it is a marvelous creation, obviously designed by the Master Designer and made up of many members. Using the human body as an analogy, we see that when an organ (member) of the body is effectively doing what it was made to do, the whole body works effectively and efficiently to accomplish great things. When an organ (member) of the body is sick, some parts, if not the whole body suffers because of that member's deficiency. Our body was designed such that other organs (members) respond to produce what is needed to help that member recover as much as possible.

Rom 12:6 In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. This scripture tells us that we, as God's children are gifted for certain things. So it would be important for us to identify what that gift is and develop or use it as an offering to the body of Christ. In doing that, we edify or build up the body.

If we choose to attempt to accomplish something that we were not created, made, or gifted to do, we will be less than effective which will in affect, detract or hinder the effective work of the body.

Each part of the body is necessary and needed for an effective functioning body. 1 Cor 12:14-17 (NLT) Yes, the body has many different parts, not just one part. If the foot says, "I am not a part of the body because I am not a hand," that does not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear says, "I am not part of the body because I am not an eye," would that make it any less a part of the body? If the whole body were an eye, how would you hear?

Or if your whole body were an ear, how would you smell anything?

So, each and every member is important. Each of us, as parts (members) of the body are necessary and needed for the effective and efficient function of the church. In other words, I, as part of the body of Christ, need you and you need me. We each need the benefit of the other's gifts, working together to effectively perform the function in the part of the body that God has called and gifted us for.

Consider that each organ in the body functions, not to benefit itself, but produces what it is designed for which is to the benefit of the other members of the body. So, we as members of the body of Christ should not strive to do the things that we want or what pleases us. Our desires should be surrendered and conformed to the Spirit's direction so that God's church is edified, God's will is accomplished and He is glorified.

Complacency and laziness in the body of Christ leads to deficiency in ministry. When you attempt ministry without the proper preparation, the body suffers. If you are always expecting to receive or be served rather than give or serve, the body suffers. You have a gift. It should be exercised and offered to God to edify the body. Rather than sit, we need to exercise or "stir up" the gifts of one another so that each member is functioning to their best in their giftedness. We each must strive to do well, that which we are called and gifted for. Then, the body will work together to accomplish wonderful things that will result in honor and glory to the One who gave us our gifts.

Your absence when the church gathers to fellowship, worship and study not only sends a poor message, but it detracts from the effective working of the church. Now Icontinued next page.....

don't want you to think that it is required that you be present every time the doors of the church are open but your absence certainly should be infrequent. Your gifts are missed each time you are not present.

God's word clearly instructs us in Heb.

10:25 "And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near."

Why all this commentary about membership in the body? Because, you, my brother or sister, as well as I are now at the crossroads in our ministry at Bethlehem. Each of us is important, needing each other to work together effectively to accomplish a most important calling. Our mission, To Lead People To Jesus, To Unite them into the family of God, To Empower them to serve

Jesus in the world, and To Give Honor and Glory to God. Every one of us has a specific gift that, if exercised and offered willingly to God for His glory will be used to accomplish our mission much more effectively than we could ever imagine.

We have heard great sermons for the past several years that have challenged us to be more than hearers of the Word. We must be doers, obedient to the leading of the Spirit as we are directed to exercise our specific gifts. Failure in obedience is sin, which is a disease, like a cancer in the body. It will hinder our ministry at Bethlehem. It's time to get out of our comfort zones and attempt to do those things which we know the Spirit is calling each of us to do.

We each should continually review our

effectiveness in the body by asking, Does what I do build up the body? Do I hinder the effective and efficient work? Have I identified my spiritual gift and am I exercising it in the church for the edification of the body? Am I willing to lay down whatever I am doing that is not my calling or giftedness so that another who has the gift can step up for effective ministry?

As a member at Bethlehem, you are an integral part of the organization and your gifts are needed. Each gift, no matter what it is, is necessary for effective and efficient ministry at Bethlehem. I look forward with anticipation to what God will do in us and through us at Bethlehem as we, as members of the body each stir up our spiritual gifts and spur each other on to good works in our respective areas of calling. *VEF*

PULPIT COMMITTEE UPDATE

The pulpit committee continues to seek God's direction during our search for a new pastor at Bethlehem. We were blessed under the ministry of Joe and Billie Ard for 23 years and pray God's blessing and guidance on them as they continue to serve Him as He leads. The Committee has made several contacts and have received resumes from several candidates which are being researched. When available, a candidate will be asked to come and speak at Bethlehem. There are cases where the candidate is unable to come due to commitments in current ministry. We have solicited recorded media, either CD or DVD of sermons and services where available. We are not rushing into a decision for recommending a candidate but we believe the Spirit is moving and directing our search and we anticipate making a recommendation to the body that will be God's minister for our ministry. Please continue to lift up the committee and our whole church as we move forward in ministry.

Youth Ministry

Bethlehem Church has a unique and excellent opportunity to minister to youth in the surrounding communities. We are blessed to have opportunities to reach a multitude of kids, some who are burdened with problems that so many times are from no fault of their own. Several of the kids who attend youth meetings are from broken homes and homes where, they have been left to raise themselves, much of the time. These children many times have discipline problems because they have not been taught or disciplined in the home. This brings challenges to our youth leaders who strive to love and nurture these kids as well as maintain an organized and effective time of teaching for the entire youth group. Our youth ministry team needs an extra special dose of love as they spend time with these kids each week. These challenges can seem somewhat overwhelming to our youth leaders. Your words of encouragement, support in prayer and offering to assist in special events with the youth are appreciated and needed. Lift our youth and their leaders up in prayer when you pray.

Commentary on 1-12-14 Business Meeting

By Vernie E. Fountain

Our first quarterly business meeting for 2014 was conducted on 1-12-14 at 6:00 pm. Attendance has improved at our last two meetings compared to prior meetings. 17 men and 26 women attended the January meeting, including two of our youth. It makes me proud to see our youth taking part and being involved in the business sessions. The Reverend Chris Singleton officiated the meeting.

Reports were received from the Finance Committee, Deacon Board, Ladies Auxiliary, Senior Ministry, Sunday School Department, Youth Department, Trustees and the Pulpit Committee.

During the meeting a report was given regarding the potential availability of the property across the road from the church which generated considerable discussion. The ideas and opinions offered either pro or con were made in a spirit of genuine concern for what is best for our ministry. A couple of motions were offered and seconded to make offers on the property but these failed to carry a majority vote by the members present. Multiple issues were addressed in the discussion.

There is no question that additional space is needed for effective ministry, especially for the youth department. Additionally, our fellowship hall is too small and is cramped when we try to seat and serve a large crowd. We are in need of storage space for chairs, tables and other supplies and equipment.

Concern was expressed with the separation of the property by NC111 and

the safety of our children crossing the road. Also, purchasing this property is another deviation from the plan developed by the planning committee. Another consideration is the amount of work that would be required to retrofit the building to facilitate our needs.

Disappointment was expressed by some that no decision was made to move forward to address the needed expansion so that we can provide additional space for multi-purpose activities not only for our youth but other areas of ministry. As I observed the heart felt expressions from both sides of the issue, I felt that the discussion was healthy and has raised the awareness for the need to proceed with action, either by further research and consideration of the available property or by making the decision to move forward with another phase of the plan proposed by the planning committee years ago. I truly believe that as each of us brings this issue before God, earnestly seeking His will and discernment in the matter, we will be given clear direction as to what is the right action to take.

We have been truly blessed as we have expanded the facilities in the past several years and are debt free. God has supplied and I truly believe that God will continue to supply everything we need and more as long as we are operating under His plans for Bethlehem. Will you join me in prayer for God's clear guidance and direction in this matter? Will you commit to be obedient to whatever God directs us to do? Will you exercise your faith to believe that God will supply everything we need as we continue to work His work in this community? Make this a daily petition before God's throne.

Each of us are dear brothers and sisters in the Lord and we should value

and carefully consider thoughts and opinions expressed from the heart. May we be committed not to allow differing opinions and convictions to divide our fellowship, but rather commit to pray along side each other until we are united in Spirit on the issue.

Also, during the meeting, the 2014 Nominating Committee was completed by the nomination of the one member at large which is appointed at the January Business Meeting each year to serve with the other members of the committee consisting of chairpersons from various ministries. They have a formidable task as they review the slate of officers whose term will expire in June of 2014. Several seats will be vacated including, Assistant Clerk, Assistant Treasurer, Youth Ministries Director, Assistant Sunday School Superintendent, Assistant Nursery Coordinator, Finance Board Member at Large, two seats on the Trustee Board, one seat on the Usher Board, one Publicity Committee member and one Sign Committee member.

As you can see, the Nominating Committee not only needs our prayers but each member of our church should be praying for God to use them and their specific spiritual gifts in whatever capacity that will result in complete and effective ministry, not only within the church but more importantly, as we reach out into the surrounding communities in obedience to God's calling for Bethlehem. **VEF**

Our purpose at Bethlehem is:
To Lead people to Jesus
To Unite them in the family of God,
To Empower them to serve
Jesus in the world,
And to Bring honor and glory to God.

May you receive from the Lord....

If you are **weary**, may you receive the Lord's **refreshing**:

They are filled from the abundance of Your house; You let them drink from Your refreshing stream.

Psalms 36:8 HCSB

If you are **weak**, may you receive the Lord's **strength**:

The Lord is my Strength and my Song, and He has become my Salvation; this is my God, and I will praise Him, my father's God, and I will exalt Him.

Exodus 15:2 AMP

If you are **wounded**, may you receive the Lord's **healing**:

He has sent me to comfort the brokenhearted and to proclaim that captives will be released and prisoners will be freed.

Isaiah 61:1 NLT

If you are **worried**, may you receive the Lord's **peace**:

Peace I leave with you; My [own] peace I now give and bequeath to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. [Stop allowing yourselves to be agitated and disturbed; and do not permit yourselves to be fearful and intimidated and cowardly and unsettled.] John 14:27 AMP

If you are **wondering**, may you receive the Lord's **clarity**:

Behold, You desire truth in the inner being; make me therefore to know wisdom in my inmost heart. Psalm 51:6 AMP

If you are **wandering**, may you receive the Lord's **direction**:

And I will bring the blind by a way that they know not; I will lead them in paths that they have not known. I will make darkness into light before them and make uneven places into a plain. These things I have determined to do [for them]; and I will not leave them forsaken. Isaiah 42:16 AMP

-Devotional by **Roy Lessin**, from his blog *Meet Me In The Meadow*.

Web Site Resources

Bethlehem FWB is on the web at www.bethlehemfwbchurch.org and is an excellent resource for your review.

Our web presence is another way we expand our ministry to reach many who do not attend church. You will find several pages with a variety of offerings for your review. We have a few people who are now listening to our services from overseas.

The **Home Page** shows our purpose statement, how to contact us and a map and directions to our church.

The **Pastor Search** page serves to update the status of our search for a Pastor at Bethlehem.

About Our Ministries provides a brief description of the various active ministries we are involved in.

The **Staff and Committees Directory** lists current staff and committee members.

The **Media Archives** page contains archives of worship services. From

this page, you can click on a service and listen to the entire service from October to the present. Additionally, the archive gives you access to church bulletins for the past several Sundays in the event you need to review a specific service. Prior publications of our newsletter, Bethlehem Star are also available for your review as well.

The **Photo Gallery** contains photographs taken at church functions and activities. We welcome your contributions of photographs that you think should be considered for posting on the web.

The **Prayer Request** page lists those for whom prayer has been requested. Please help us keep this list current.

The **Testimonies** page contains testimonies from anyone who has expressed thanks for what God has done in and through the outreach and ministries at Bethlehem.

The **Calendar** page is an attempt to maintain a current calendar of the activities scheduled for various ministries at Bethlehem. If you find something omitted that you feel should be included, please make us aware so the calendar will be current and accurate. Thanks to all who provide information to keep the website up to date. vef

Our Never Changing, All Sufficient God

Ponder on this:

Every day begins and ends with His purpose--- there isn't a detail that escapes His eye...a trial that doesn't touch His heart...or a single experience beyond His compassion. Every moment of your life is in His care---

Overwhelming peace and hope can be yours today.

Scripture: Philippians 4:6, 7 TLB

Pray about everything; tell God your needs... If you do this, you will experience God's peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand. His peace will keep your thoughts and your hearts quiet and at rest as you trust in Christ Jesus.

From DaySpring Devotions

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

God is at work around you. He will accomplish His plan and purpose, regardless of what you do. He does not need you, yet He invites you to become His servant and be used to accomplish greater things than you think could be possible. Will you join Him in ministry or will you remain complacent and satisfied just to sit and observe? Great blessings are in store for those who respond and become involved in His work. vef

FROM INTERNET E-MAIL

Apples

A few years ago a group of salesmen went to a regional sales convention in Chicago .. They had assured their wives that they would be home in plenty of time for Friday night's dinner. In their rush, with tickets and briefcases, one of these salesmen inadvertently kicked over a table which held a display of apples. Apples flew everywhere. Without stopping or looking back, they all managed to reach the plane in time for their nearly-missed boarding...

ALL BUT ONE!!! He paused, took a deep breath, got in touch with his feelings and experienced a twinge of compassion for the girl whose apple stand had been overturned.

He told his buddies to go on without him, waved good-bye, told one of them to call his wife when they arrived at their home destination and explain his taking a later flight. Then he returned to the terminal where the apples were all over the terminal floor.

He was glad he did. The 16-year-old girl was totally blind! She was softly crying, tears running down her cheeks in frustration, and at the same time helplessly groping for her spilled produce as the crowd swirled about her; no one stopping and no one to care for her plight.

The salesman knelt on the floor with her, gathered up the apples, put them back on the table and helped organize her display. As he did this, he noticed that many of them had become battered and bruised; these he set aside in another basket.

When he had finished, he pulled out his wallet and said to the girl, "Here, please take this \$40 for the damage we did. Are you okay?" She nodded through her tears. He continued on with, "I hope we didn't spoil your day too badly."

As the salesman started to walk away, the bewildered blind girl called out to him, "Mister...." He paused and turned to look back into those blind eyes. She continued, "**Are you Jesus?**"

He stopped in mid-stride and he wondered. He gently went back and said, "No, I am nothing like Jesus - He is good, kind, caring, loving, and would never have bumped into your display in the first place.

"The girl gently nodded: "I only asked because I prayed for Jesus to help me gather the apples. He sent you to help me, so you are like Him - only He knows who will do His will. Thank you for hearing His call, Mister."

Then slowly he made his way to catch the later flight with that question burning and bouncing about in his soul: "**Are you Jesus?**"

Do people mistake you for Jesus? That's our destiny, is it not? To be so much like Jesus that people cannot tell the difference as we live and interact with a world that is blind to His love, life and grace.

If we claim to know Him, we should live, walk and act as He would. Knowing Him is more than simply quoting scripture and going to church. It's actually living the Word as life unfolds day to day .

You are the apple of His eye even though you, too, have been bruised by a fall. He stopped what He was doing and picked up you and me on a hill called Calvary and paid in full for our damaged fruit.

Are you "JESUS, with skin?"

JANUARY 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 7:00 Bible Study Youth Meetings 8:00 Choir Rehearsal	2	3	4
5 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship	6	7	8 7:00 Bible Study Youth Meetings 8:00 Choir Rehearsal	9	10	11
12 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 6:00 Business Meeting	13	14	15 7:00 Bible Study Youth Meetings 8:00 Choir Rehearsal	16	17	18
19 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship	20 7:00 Nominating Committee Mtg.	21	22 7:00 Bible Study Youth Meetings 8:00 Choir Rehearsal	23	24	25
26 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 4-6 Youth Dept Seminar 6:00 Communion & Feet Washing	27 7:15 Pulpit Committee	28	29 7:00 Bible Study Youth Meetings 8:00 Choir Rehearsal	30	31	

FEBRUARY 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 5:00 MOU Basketball 7:00 MOU Basketball
2 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 4-6 Youth Dept. Seminar	3	4	5 7:00 Bible Study Youth Meetings 8:00 Choir Rehearsal	6 Schedule Centennial Directory Photos	7 Schedule Centennial Directory Photos	8 Schedule Centennial Directory Photos
9 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship	10	11	12 7:00 Bible Study Youth Meetings 8:00 Choir Rehearsal	13	14	15 Valentine Banquet
16 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship	17	18	19 7:00 Bible Study Youth Meetings 8:00 Choir Rehearsal	20	21	22
23 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship	24	25	26 7:00 Bible Study Youth Meetings 8:00 Choir Rehearsal	27	28 Restore One Ministries Human Trafficking MOC	

MARCH 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Sunday School Workshops at MOU NE Women's Conf.
2 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship	3	4	5 7:00 Bible Study Youth Meetings 8:00 Choir Rehearsal	6	7	8
9 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship	10	11	12 7:00 Bible Study Youth Meetings 8:00 Choir Rehearsal	13	14	15
16 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship	17	18	19 7:00 Bible Study Youth Meetings 8:00 Choir Rehearsal	20	21	22
23 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship	24	25	26 7:00 Bible Study Youth Meetings 8:00 Choir Rehearsal	27	28	29 Basketball at FWB Children's Home
30 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship	31					

Bethlehem Free Will Baptist Church
2106 NC 111 South
Chinquapin, NC 28521
www.bethlehemfwbchurch.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

