

A good friend loves and cares always

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are not dead in the physical but simply live their lives without function and purpose. Some might say what does that have to do with you, or even believe that you can have a bunch of foolish friends and it not affect you but that is far from the truth. Bad friends will help to corrupt your soul and ruin your life.

Around nine years ago I made a drastic move that eventually changed my life. I decided to move back to Charlotte and start my life over. When I did so, that infuriated some people I thought were my friends. I suddenly became the enemy of people I had sacrificed my money and self-respect to hang with. They turned on me and left me feeling as if I was all alone in the world.

If I was smart at that time I would have realized those people meant me no good and would have praised God for the deliverance instead of crying and feeling sorry for myself.

However, now I see the situation differently. I look at it as a miracle of God. I can see now that the Lord had to separate me from the walking dead so that I might draw closer to Him.

If I had continued to hang with those people I would not have sought a closer relationship with the Creator. I wouldn't have accepted counsel from the wise or the Holy Spirit because my counsel came from evil men and women.

There are so many people that are in prison and who died prematurely because of their friends and I could have been one of them.

During some of my darkest hours my grandmother used to tell me to leave my friends alone yet I shrugged off her advice. What I didn't know at that time but I'm aware of today is that she constantly read, recited and lived by Psalm 1. And if I intended to get anywhere in life I would do the same.

Psalm 1 says: "Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers."

Not so the wicked! They are like chaff that the wind blows away. Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous. For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous. For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish."

Today, I hear disturbing news about the people I used to call my friends. They didn't change nor did they prosper. Over the years they have lost their looks, resources, dreams and good name. And if God had not separated me from them I believe it's safe to say I would be in the same predicament.

Now, I realize it's a blessing to have a good friend and curse to have a bad friend.

A good friend is a person that loves always and wants the best for you. A bad friend is one who opposes the Lord and advises you to do the same.

I read a card that said a good friend is a sign the Lord cares for you and I wholeheartedly agree.

PARKWOOD INSTITUTIONAL

Christian Methodist Episcopal Church
Rev. Roderick D. Lewis, Sr., Pastor
802 Tom Hunter Road • Charlotte, NC 28213
(Ph) 704-921-4915 (Fax) 704-921-4917
website: www.parkwoodcme.com
Radio Broadcast: Sat. 8AM WGIV 1600AM
Sunday Worship: 8AM and 11AM
Sunday Breakfast: 8:45AM
Sunday Church School: 9:45AM
Bible Study: Wed. 12 Noon and Thur. 6:30PM
"The Church Where Everybody is Somebody and Christ is Lord of All."
TRANSPORTATION AVAILABLE



Rev. Roderick D. Lewis, Sr.



Margaret lives in her own place with her own stuff.
Tracie helps to make it possible.

"Margaret is 85 and sharp as a tack. But her health makes it tough to get around. Tracie wants to help out in her community, but she has a busy job. Faith in Action brought them together. It's people of different faiths who volunteer to shop, cook, drive, or just check in on some of the millions of Americans with long-term health needs."

If you're like me and have wondered how you can make a difference, volunteer with Faith in Action. Find out more at (877) 324-8411 or www.faithinaction.org. A neighbor's independence depends on you and me."



— Della Reese, Entertainment Legend.
Faith in Action Believer.

Greater Bethel A.M.E. Church

Rev. Dr. Walter V. Howard, Jr. Pastor
201 Grandin Rd. - Charlotte, NC 28208
Phone: 704-376-4345 • Fax 704-376-4350
Morning Worship Services - 7:45am & 11am
Sunday School - 9:30am - 10:30am
Intercessory Prayer - Friday - 7:00pm
Wed. Bible Study 11:45am - 1:00pm & 7:00pm - 8:00pm
A.C.E. Fellowship: Sun. 6:00 pm
Combined Worship - 1st Sunday @ 10:00am
http://www.gbamec.org



Dr. Walter V. Howard, Jr. Pastor & Mrs. Howard

silver Mount Baptist Church

"Continuing the legacy - By Fulfilling the Vision"
Come And Worship With Us!
Morning Worship Service 9:45am Children's Church
Sunday School 8:45am Wed. Night Bible Study 7:00pm
501 W. Arrowood Road - Charlotte NC 28217
(704) 522-1528 • (704) 527-2499 - fax
www.silvermount.org
email: smbc501@bellsouth.net
Dr. Lincoln C. Lee, Pastor

Greater Gethsemane A.M.E. Zion Church

"The Church with the Community at Heart"
531 Campus Street • Charlotte, NC 28216
(704)375-3900 - Fax 372-0614
Worship Services: 8AM & 11AM
Sunday School: 9:30AM
Bible Study: Wed. 10:30AM & 7PM
Daycare & Afterschool Available
The Reverend Calvin L. Miller - Pastor
Reverend Karen Roberts Miller - Spouse
E-mail: gamez531@bellsouth.net

LUKE

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Sunday Worship Services.....8:00am • 11:00am • 6:30pm
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Wednesday.....Noon Day Worship Study..12:00
Evening Worship Study.....7:00pm
Rev. Clifford Matthews, Jr., Pastor • 375-9650
1600 Norris Ave. • Charlotte, NC 28206 • FAX: 375-8397

SIMPSON-GILLESPIE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

JOIN US FOR SERVICE
Sunday School, 9:30am • Sunday Worship, 11am
Thursday: Bible Study, 7pm
Saturday: "Contemporary Worship," 6pm... "Wear Your Jeans"
—Dr. Andrew Brown, Pastor—
3545 Beatties Ford Rd., Charlotte, NC 28216 • 704-399-2717
"We can Do All Things Through Christ Who Strengthens Us"

Mayfield Memorial Baptist Church

"A Church Putting Love Into Action"
700 SUGAR CREEK ROAD, WEST CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA 28213
Sunday Church School 9:30a.m.
Worship Service 11:00a.m. and 6:00p.m.
Baptist Training Union 5:00p.m.
Prayer Meeting & Bible Study Wednesdays 7:30pm
Office (704)596-7935 • Fax (704)596-1204
Residence (704)597-1249

Greater Providence Baptist Church

"Learning to Seek God First"
2000 Milton Road, Charlotte, NC 28215
704-532-6228 704-532-7568 fax
Dr. Fred Gibson, Pastor
~Come Join Us in Worship & Praise~
Sunday Worship 8:00 AM & 11:00 AM
Sunday School 9:45 AM
Hour of Power 12 Noon - Wednesdays
Spiritual Renewal/Bible Study 7:00 PM Wednesdays
(Adult, Teen, & Youth classes)



MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH

"The Church Where Everybody is Somebody and Christ is All"
Dr. John H. Walker, Pastor & Minister, Rosie Walker
SUNDAY
Christian Education School.....10:00 a.m.
Worship.....7:45 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
Youth Church 1st, 2nd, 3rd & 5th.....11a.m.
WEDNESDAY
"Hour of Power" Midday Worship 12 Noon
Institute Study.....6:30 pm/Worship 7:30 pm
TV MINISTRY: Broadcast CMPAC 21
Thu 7:30pm • Cable 9 - Sat. 2:30pm, Sun. 9am
RADIO MINISTRY: WGSP 1310 AM
M/W/F 12:20 p.m. • Sun. 9:30 a.m.
704-392-8496 • 1300 Hatteras Ave., • www.macedoniaofcharlotte.org



ZION CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

"Join Us For Service"
SUNDAY, Morning Worship.....9am
WEDNESDAY, Bible Study.....7pm
5409 Beatties Fd. Rd., Charlotte, 28216
704-502-2798
Joseph L. Dempsey, Pastor



First Mt. Zion Baptist Church

1515 Remount Rd. • (Tel.)332-8335 (Fax)372-7548
28208
Sunday Morning Worship Services... 8:30 - 9:30 - 11:00am
Sunday School..... 9:45 - 10:45am
Singles Ministries (Mon.)..... 6:30 - 7:30pm
Senior Citizens (Mon.)..... 10:30 - 4:00pm
Office Hours: Mon. - Fri. 9:00am - 4:00pm
You are cordially invited to worship with us!
Dr. C.V. Owens

Shepherd's Fold Church

5101 Nations Ford Road • Charlotte, NC 28217 • (704) 583-1436
Is This The Only Soul You're Listening to?
Celebrative Early Worship 8:30 a.m.
Dynamic Bible Study 10:00 a.m.
Powerful Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
W.O.W. Word On Wednesday 7:00 pm.
- Hot Day Supper -
Instead of listening to someone else's soul, maybe it's time you started listening to your own. Come join us this Sunday in the worship and fellowship of Jesus Christ.
"The Vision Is Clear, The Journey Has Begun"
Senior & Founding Pastor C. David Stackhouse & First Lady Henée



Obituaries

Alexander Funeral Home
Dorothy Bridges died Jan. 27 at Carolinas Medical Center. Visitation was Jan. 30 and funeral Jan. 31 at Parkwood Institutional CME Church. Funeral at Beatties Ford Memorial Gardens.
Lizzie Gaither died Jan. 28 at her residence. Funeral was Feb. 1 at Rockwell A.M.E. Zion Church. Burial at Carolinas Medical Center.
Alexander Parker died Jan. 24 at Carolinas Medical Center. Visitation was Jan. 29 and funeral Jan. 30 at Zechariah Alexander Sr. Memorial Chapel. Burial at York Memorial Park.
Miller Rawlinson died Jan. 24 at Presbyterian Hospital. Visitation and funeral were held Jan. 31 at First Baptist Mayfield Memorial Baptist Church. Burial at Beatties Ford Memorial Gardens.
Catherine Kirkpatrick died Jan. 19 at Carolinas Medical Center. Visitation and funeral were held Jan. 25 at Zechariah Alexander Sr. Memorial Chapel. Burial at Beatties Ford Memorial Gardens.
Claude Beatty of 6931 Glenmoor Drive died Jan. 14 at his residence. Funeral was held Jan. 17 at Woodland Presbyterian Church. Burial at the church cemetery.
Bernice Gambrell of Bloomfield, Conn., died Jan. 15 at her residence. Funeral was held in Connecticut.
Doreatha Wade of 4836 Shannamara Drive, Matthews died Jan. 15 at her residence. Graveside service was held Jan. 17 at York Memorial Park.
Mildred Anna Campbell of 501 Dedmon Drive died Jan. 17 at her residence. Funeral was held Jan. 21 at A.S. Grier Memorial Chapel. Burial at Oaklawn Cemetery.
Barbara Thompson of 6817 Deanwood Place died Jan. 17 at her residence. Funeral was held Jan. 22 at A.S. Grier Memorial Chapel. Burial at York Memorial Park.
Idella F. Swift of 2316 Ludlow Drive died Jan. 18 at Carolinas Medical Center. Funeral was held Jan. 22 at Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses on Hutchinson-McDonald Road. Burial at Beatties Ford Memorial Garden.
Lannette Elizabeth Way of 2522 Dalebrook Drive died Jan. 18 at Presbyterian Hospital. Funeral was held Jan. 22 at Mt. Carmel Baptist Church. Burial at Oaklawn Cemetery.
Richard Bullard of 201 West Tenth St. died Jan. 20 at Elizabeth Place Nursing Home. Memorial service was held Jan. 23 at A.S. Grier Memorial Chapel.
Mary P. Humphrey of 4315 Sugar Creek Road died Jan. 20 at University Hospital. Funeral was held Jan. 24 at First Baptist Church-West. Burial at Oaklawn Cemetery.
Oren McCullough of 1700 Madison Ave. died Jan. 22 at Charlotte Health Care. Funeral service was held Jan. 28 at Memorial Presbyterian Church. Burial at York Memorial Park.
Alma Jones of 3623 Sipes Lane died Jan. 22 at her residence. Funeral was held Jan. 29 at Moores Sanctuary A.M.E. Zion Church. Burial at Beatties Ford Memorial Garden.
Willie Foster of 345 Sundial Lane died Jan. 23 at Carolinas Medical Center. Funeral was held Jan. 29 at Tabernacle of Prayer Church. Burial at Beatties Ford Memorial Garden.
Laverne R. Bufford of 1300 Pamlico St. died Jan. 23 at Carolinas Medical Center-Mercy. Funeral was held Jan. 29 at A.S. Grier Memorial Chapel. Burial at Beatties Ford Memorial Garden.
Howard Walker of 3715 Bardot Drive died Jan. 22 at his residence. Funeral was held Jan. 31 at Reeder Memorial Baptist Church. Burial at Forest Lawn Cemetery.
Mary Elizabeth Davis of 3035 Celia Ave. died Jan. 25 at her residence. Funeral was held Jan. 31 at Biddleville Mission House of Prayer. Burial at Beatties Ford Memorial Garden.
Stephen Gary of 6806 Shanopin St. died Jan. 25 in Charlotte. Funeral was held Feb. 2 at A.S. Grier Memorial Chapel. Burial at Sharon Memorial Park.
The Rev. Robert Ross Broome Jr. of 522 Pennsylvania Ave. died Jan. 26. Funeral was held Jan. 30 at A.S. Grier Memorial Chapel. Burial at Oaklawn Cemetery.
Wakefield Fuller of 1008 Druid Circle died Jan. 26 at Wesley Nursing Center. Funeral was held Jan. 31 at Reeder Memorial Baptist Church. Burial at Oaklawn Cemetery.
Rastus Horton Sr. of 1711 Seigle Ave. died Jan. 29 at his residence. Funeral was held Feb. 5 at Pleasant Valley Church. Burial at the church cemetery.
Aaron Anderson of Miami, Fla. died Jan. 24 at Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami. Funeral will be held Feb. 5 at A.S. Grier Memorial Chapel. Burial will be at West Creek Cemetery.
Samuel Thomas Fortson of 9309 Timberline Road died Jan. 31 at Presbyterian Hospital. Funeral will be held Feb. 5 at Greater Providence Baptist Church. Burial will be at Charlotte Memorial Garden.



REEDER MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Come and share "The Journey" with us.
Sunday Morning Worship - 8 am and 10:45 am
Sunday School - 9:30 am
Tuesday Bible Study - 7:30 pm
A SPIRITUAL JOURNEY MAKING CONNECTIONS WITH YOUR FUTURE
3725 Beatties Ford Rd. • 704-398-2914

MOUNT CARMEL BAPTIST CHURCH

"Pastor and People Prevailing Together"
Mission Statement: "Celebrating Christ to reach, teach and equip people for the service of Christ"
Sunday Worship at 8:00 A.M., 9:30 A.M. and 11:30 A.M.
Sunday School Ministry at 9:30 A.M.
Children (4-11 yrs.), Youth (12-17 yrs.) & Nursery: 11:30 A.M.
Small Groups and Married Couple's: 9:30 A.M.
Wednesday: Praise Worship & Bible Study, 7 P.M.
Youth and Children's Ministry
3201 Tuckaseegee Road, Charlotte, NC 28208-3357
Rev. Dr. Casey R. Kimbrough, I
Office: 704-394-3525 Fax: 704-394-8836
Website: www.mcbc-nc.org
The Reverend Dr. Casey R. Kimbrough, I, Senior Pastor

St. Paul Baptist Church

Our Purpose: "To convince the unconvinced to be convinced and make disciples"
Sunday Worship at 7:30 A.M. and 10:30 A.M.
Sunday Morning Breakfast 8:45 A.M.
Sunday School at 9:25 A.M. - 10:25 A.M.
Radio Broadcast Sunday 11:00 A.M. (1370 A.M. Dial)
Bible Study Wed. 12 Noon - 6:45 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.
Youth Church 2nd & 3rd Sunday 10:30 A.M.
1401 North Allen Street, Charlotte, NC 28205
Office: 704-334-5309
Gregory K. Moss Sr. Pastor

