

Laurel

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and election officials would be an added expense resulting from the division.

Gunter also presented the commissioners with a letter signed by the five elected Democratic officials in the precinct. The letter expressed opposition to the split, saying it would, "only serve to divide and weaken our party." The letter was signed by Jerry Wallin, vice chairman Mary Frances Boles, Paul Wallin and Terry Gunter and secretary-treasurer Kathy Shelton.

In the face of united opposition to their plan, the county commissioners seemed to agree that the split was ill-advised. Board member Virginia Anderson told Gunter, "If you're having second thoughts about this, I think we ought to take a look at it."

Commission chairman Erwin Adams defended the division, saying that he had received a petition earlier signed by some 250 voters asking for the split.

Madison County Democratic Party chairman Zeno Ponder also spoke out against the split. Ponder told the meeting, "I would have to tell you that I've had many phone calls about this, all against splitting the township."

Ponder then called for a show of hands of those favoring the division. No hands were evident. When Ponder called for a show of hands opposed to the split, however, the entire delegation of Laurel residents raised their hands.

Ponder then told the commissioners, "I would urge to come together as Isaiah requested and reach a solution acceptable to these people. They're opposed to it and I'm opposed to it."



MORE THAN 150 Laurel voters attended Monday's meeting of the county commissioners to

protest the division of the Laurel township precinct.

Ponder urged the commissioners to "Save our energy to battle Jesse Helms. He has embarrassed me and I have a yearning to have him come home."

Fronia Gunter also spoke out against the split, telling the board, "These people love you and won't go against you, unless you go against them. If you go against them, you're in trouble."

The board's attorney, Larry Leake, then requested an executive session to discuss the matter with the commissioners in closed session.

When the board emerged from the 20-minute closed session, Erwin Adams announced that Leake had prepared a resolution regarding the division.

The resolution, which Leake read several

times to the audience, calls for a special public meeting on Monday, July 9 at 7:30 p.m. in the Madison County Court House. The meeting will be held to hear public comments concerning the split precincts.

Gunter asked the board to take action at the Monday meeting, telling the board, "It was awful easy to make a decision before. I think you're shirking your responsibility."

Gunter also requested that the special hearing be conducted at the Laurel School. Adams rejected the request, saying that it would be unfair to commissioners Anderson and Ledford to ask them to travel to Laurel.

The commissioners then voted to accept the petitions and set the special meeting for next Monday night.

SEEDS FROM THE SOWER

By Michael A. Guido, Metter, Georgia

"I have such a load burdening me," exclaimed a preacher. "I am sorry," answered his friend. "But wait until you hear what my burden is," cautioned the man of God. And he quoted Psalm 68:19, "Blessed be the Lord who daily loadeth us with benefits."

your blessings, name them one by one." Have you ever tried it with pen and paper? Do it now. And in counting your many blessings, do not forget the negative benefits—the things you do not have. Every misery you do not have is a mercy you do have.

We speak of being crushed with cares. But the psalmist spoke of being burdened with benefits. Was it only occasionally? No, day by day.

We dwell on our griefs. But he dwelt on God's gifts. And they are not light, they are loads. No wonder the songwriter urged, "Count your blessings, name them one by one."

A Persian poet once complained when he had no money to buy shoes. But when he saw a man with no feet he became contented and thankful.

Thankfulness is the predecessor of thankfulness. If you think on the benefits you will be thankful to the Benefactor!

Johnson Autopsy Report Not Ready

Results of autopsy testing on Joyce Johnson of Hot Springs are still unavailable and may not be made public before next week, according to officials of the state medical examiner's office in Chapel Hill.

Buncombe County medical examiner Dr. H.E. Hinman ordered the autopsy done on June 21 and samples were sent to the Chapel Hill laboratory for testing.

Dr. McVie of the Chapel Hill office said Monday that the undetermined causes at Memorial Mission Hospital in Asheville after a June 17 accident in her home. She was five years old at the time of her death.

No further information was available at press time.

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Happiness isn't a birthday party, nor a Fourth of July parade. It is really a spiritual quest—born in brotherhood, nurtured in self-control, and ultimately realized in respect for one another and for God. Because we were willing to settle for less... less we've been getting!

The Church is not immune to controversy as it tries to wrestle with the frustrations of our time. Wrestling means conflict. Not every hold deserves applause or contributes to victory.

But the Church inspires those millions of Americans whose pursuit of happiness turns humbly and confidently to that very Creator who endowed men with certain inalienable rights. He brings us together!

Saturday Isaiah 37:34-21

Sunday Psalm 113:1-9

Monday 1 Corinthians 2:1-5

Tuesday Mark 1:14-28

Wednesday 1 Corinthians 14:26-40

Thursday 1 Corinthians 16:1-24

Friday Luke 5:1-11

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