



THERE WAS A TIME WHEN I HAD the image of great-grandparents being old, with beards, like my great-grandfather, Hosea (Hose) Warren in that little house on Highway 90 between Stony Point and Hiddenite.

Now I have had to admit that I was badly off base with my image of old people reaching that "grand" time in life. The arrival of Mitchell Scott Preslan on Nov. 20 changed that. I'm glad this big 8 1/2 lb. boy arrived safely, surrounded by Statesville grandparents — our daughter, Susan Grant Rawls and her husband, Bob Rawls; also, the paternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Scott Preslan, the combined family names, Mitchell and Scott, transferred to the newborn.

Bob is the son of Mrs. Bernice Rawls who lives in Statesville and the late Mitchell Rawls, long-time Statesville resident before his death in 1990. As can easily be seen, Mitchell is our first great-grandchild. Looking into the future about 20 years, I am already thinking about being Mitch's manager, with full expectations of his signing for around \$10 - \$15 million with the Charlotte Panthers as tackle or guard. Assuming I am able to be at the signing, I welcome that commission. This confirms my belief that miracles can still happen because I will be slightly past the 100 mark at that time.

I should be careful to mention Mitchell's parents, David Preslan of Greensboro and his wife, Tracey

Rawls Preslan, our granddaughter of Statesville. Later I'll learn more about David's family but at this point, I must get to the Statesville angle. Tracey is a graduate of West Iredell High School with top honors, then on to Meredith College in Raleigh where she was editor of the Meredith Herald. She is employed in Atlanta, Ga. by John Harland Company and her husband is with CDS of Georgia.

As I hope readers sense in this and other columns, we have a sense of pride in our family as I am sure all readers of the Iredell Citizen do. This is an absolute mandate in our society today.

Since babies have no choice of parents — or great-grandparents — "Mitch" might wonder later in life about his family heritage of Grants, Teagues, Blankenships and Wartens of Iredell and Alexander Counties. I'm prejudiced, but it's a family mix that's sustained several generations of good people and will be even stronger with the Preslan addition.

Marse Grant, a native of High Point, has relatives and friends sprinkled all around Iredell County. He is Editor Emeritus of the Biblical Recorder and lives in Raleigh.

Christmas Service of Remembrance Planned

Bunch-Johnson Funeral Home and Reavis Funeral Home of Harmony jointly announce their annual Christmas Service of remembrance will be held at 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21, at Bunch-Johnson Funeral Home. This service is held annually for families served during the year by both firms. Each family will receive an ornament for their Christmas Tree with their loved one's name on it. If anyone is unable to attend the service but would like to receive their ornament, they will be available in the business office of Bunch-Johnson Funeral Home until January 1.

The service will be led by Rev. David Comer, pastor of Monticello United Methodist Church and Dreisa J. Sherrill.

Rev. Comer is a longtime resident of Statesville-Iredell area who came as minister of Grace Baptist Church in 1971 and served there until 1993. For the last five years he has served United Methodist Churches in Iredell County. During the 1980s he offered support services to families in crisis through his counseling practice. He has served on various boards, including Habitat for Humanity, Yokefellow Ministry, Fifth Street Ministries,

American Red Cross, Big Brother Big Sister, I-Care and others.

Sherrill is a native of Winston-Salem but has called Iredell County home for the past 23 years. She has been a teacher and school administrator for the Iredell-Statesville School System for 17 years and currently is principal at North Iredell High School. She earned a bachelor of arts degree in chemistry and commerce from Catawba College, a master of arts in education leadership from Appalachian State University and is currently working toward an educational doctorate in educational leadership and cultural foundations from the University of North Carolina-Greensboro. Her interest in music prompted her to serve as choir director at Monticello United Methodist Church in addition to performing in Festival of Music programs and other events. She is an active member of the Carolina Dogwood Festival and Iredell County Junior Miss Committees, which provide scholarships for area students. She is married to Gary T. Sherrill and they have a ten-year-old daughter, Salem.

For more information or if you need a ride, call 704-873-7223.

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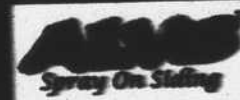
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The staffs of
Bunch-Johnson Funeral Home
and
Reavis Funeral Home of Harmony
invite the families they
served during 2003 to their annual
Service of Remembrance
featuring
Rev. David Comer
Pastor of Monticello UMC
and
Music Provided by Dreisa Sherrill
Sunday, December 21 • 4 p.m.
Westmoreland Chapel
705 Davie Ave., Statesville

Each family attending will receive an ornament with the name of its loved one from Memory Tree.

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Iredell Citizen
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