

TOBIAS

Continued from A1

city living.

"I got to tell you, Pittsburgh became claustrophobic," he said. "It's post industrial. People always remembered the way things were. That kind of gets old."

Another attribute of Tobias' life that resonates with Mr. Rogers is that he too is a powerful advocate for children. Tobias worked many years counseling children as a family psychotherapist. Sure, Tobias probably dealt with a variety of issues that afflict children, but he also counseled troubled youth who may have shared stories that don't have happy endings. Working in a clinical psychologist setting, Tobias helped many children overcome their demons.

Thus, the question becomes how did Tobias, a caring man with the deep heart, move past the kind of traumatizing tales of child abuse that tend to leave a mark on anyone's psyche.

"Tales of woe is an understatement," he said. "There is a lot of turnover in that field of therapy. The therapist usually can only take so much, but I had a treatment team in the hospital where we were able to kind of share the burden and debrief, which we needed to do because you can't do that kind of thing alone. We did a lot of good work. It was kind of like a MASH unit (a reference to the popular television show). We had to have that kind of mindset. We were doing good work, but it was tough and intense in

EDITOR'S NOTE

"Meet Your Neighbor" is an occasional series about folks in Chowan County. Our intent with these articles is not only to introduce, maybe reintroduce, such people to the community, but to explore the mystery as to why our neck of the woods is fortunate enough to attract such folks. That's a strong dynamic that doesn't happen every day in many places. This week, we feature Jonathan Tobias, a noted professor, priest and musician. For an extended version of the story, see the Daily Advance's website.

the end. But it wasn't that kind of caseload all the time."

Did faith give Tobias the strength he needed to endure? He's an upbeat person, optimistic and not the type to embrace cynicism.

"I attribute being upbeat to my faith and the discipline that comes with it," he said. "That's what I like about Orthodoxy. There's there liturgy and spirituality that defines Orthodoxy, but also Catholicism and also Anglicanism. There's a willingness to be structured in your faith."

Tobias said he attributes his strength of character and mind to his faith and the discipline that comes along with that. For example, Tobias reads from the book of Psalms each day.

"For me, it turns into kind of a helpful rhythm and framework for prayer and for your whole life," he said. "Reading Psalms about 30 minutes in the morning and 15 minutes sets up a beautiful rhythm, and you get to understand life through kind of an allegorical interpretation of the Psalm. That's one example of what's really kept me from those gravitational pulls of both cynicism on one side and melancholy and depression on the other."

Let's step back a moment to talk about Tobias'

faith journey. Like Mr. Rogers, Tobias is an ordained minister.

Like his father before him, Tobias answered the call of God to serve the lord, first as an evangelical pastor and later as a Carpatho-Russian Orthodox priest. He also is a religion professor at a top school of theology.

Because Tobias' father was an evangelical priest, he grew up like many preacher's kids living here, there and everywhere in places between Tulsa, Oklahoma, and southwestern Pennsylvania as a teenager.

"I grew up going to revivals every spring and fall, also attending church camp — the whole nine yards," he said.

Tobias served six years as an evangelical clergyman and later switched to Eastern Orthodox religion.

"I switched because I liked the stability and classic roots of doctrine. I love liturgy," said Tobias, who teaches seminary classes online at Christ the Savior Seminary in Johnstown, Pennsylvania.

Odd Fact Alert — Tobias met his wife while they were taking an American literature class.

"I'll never forget the day in January of 1980 when we were in American lit class and we were talking

about Emily Dickinson that I saw this beautiful woman sitting across the table from me at 8 o'clock in the morning — that was her," he said. "I fell in love with her at first sight."

Tobias could live most any place in the world, so why did he and his bride of nearly 38 years of marriage choose Edenton?

"We've been coming down to the Outer Banks for about 30 years," he said. "Marsha read a Forbes magazine article on how Edenton was such a beautiful place. One time when we were coming back from the Outer Banks, we decided on a whim to visit Edenton to check it out. We saw the Barker House and the bay — first time I stepped out, it just felt like home."

A rolling stone gathers no moss whereas in Chowan County, that doesn't matter much because the moss grows on cypress trees — metaphorically speaking, anybody — maybe even a rolling stone — can find the right branch.

"Being a preacher's kid growing up was like being an army brat," he said. "There never was a rootedness where my family lived because we had always moved from place to place every five to eight years. So I've gone all over the place like Oklahoma, Indiana, Ohio and Pennsylvania — that's how kind of rootless I was. When we came to Edenton, it just felt like a place to put down roots, get to know the community and just love the area — love the history, love the land."

Staff writer Miles Layton can be reached at mlayton@ncweeklies.com

Capehart faces two charges in sex case

STAFF REPORT

An Edenton man was charged with felony second-degree forcible rape involving a minor and misdemeanor sexual battery.

Chowan County Sheriff's Department recently arrested Xavius Gamal Capehart, 19, who allegedly engaged in sexual intercourse with an Edenton teenager, age not provided, that he

should have known was physically helpless at the time when the offenses occurred between May 27 and May 28, according to court documents.

Capehart was arrested July 10 and he has posted bond that was set at \$125,000 unsecured. His trial date is scheduled for Sept. 10 in Chowan County Superior Court.

Capehart is member of John A. Holmes High School's Class of 2018.

CRIMEWATCH

Chowan County Sheriff's Office

Arrests

Michael Robert Kronz IV, Old Ferry Road, was arrested and charged with two counts of driving while license revoked. An unsecured bond of \$10,000 was set.

DeeAudrey Keith Copeland, of Conway Avenue, Charlotte, was arrested and charged with failure to appear in child support court. A \$865.32 cash bond was set.

William Barron Norman, 23, of Virginia Road, Edenton, was arrested on July 8 on Washington County warrants for misdemeanor charges of driving while license revoked and no liability insurance. A secured bond of \$500 was set. Arresting officer, Deputy J.L. Church.

Nathan Thomas Harrell, 36, of Yeopim Road, Edenton, turned himself into deputies on July 8 on two misdemeanor charges of simple assault and a misdemeanor charge of assault with a deadly weapon. An unsecured bond of \$7,000 was set. He was confined to the Chowan County Jail. Arresting officer, Deputy J.L. Church.

Daniel Lee Herrar, 36, of Johnston Street, Edenton was arrested July 9 on Washington County warrants for felony charges of inciting to riot. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set. Arresting officer, Deputy J.L. Church.

Cyntara Sherike Bemby, 27, of Valentine Road, Edenton, was arrested July 9, on a Pasquotank County warrant for a misdemeanor charge of failure to return rental property. Arresting officer, Deputy J. L. Church.

Oliva W. Bass, 25, of Harris Landing Road, was arrested July 13 after being indicted on a felony charge of obtaining property by false pretenses. An unsecured bond of \$2,000 was set. Arresting officer, Sgt. K.M. White.

Tamrik Jamal Hamer, 19, of Cabarrus Street, Edenton, was arrested July 12, on felony charges of conspiracy and breaking and entering. A secured bond of \$7,500 was set. Arresting officer, Investigator J. McArthur.

Nicholas Devon Elliott, 31, of Sandy Ridge Road,

Tyner, was arrested July 12 on a felon charge of possession of a firearm by a felon. An unsecured bond of \$50,000 was set. Arresting officer, Investigator J. McArthur.

Sherrod Daquan Ferebee, 19, of Holly Grove Road, Edenton, was arrested July 12 on felony charges of conspiracy and burglary/breaking and entering. A secured bond of \$7,500 was set. Arresting officer, Investigator J. McArthur.

Jennifer Ann Britt, 49, of Cannons Ferry Road, Tyner, was arrested July 14 on two misdemeanor charge of simple assault. A secured bond of \$6,000 was set. A secured bond of \$6,000 was set. She was confined to the Chowan County Jail.

Windi Aleasa Parker, 47, of Yeopim Trail, Edenton, was arrested July 16 on a felony charge of habitual felon. A secured bond of \$25,000 was set. She was confined to the Chowan County Jail. Arresting officer, J. McArthur.

Edenton Police Department

Arrests

Kevin Corey McMullen, 29, of River Road, Edenton, was arrested July 3 on a misdemeanor charge of possession of drug paraphernalia. Arresting officer, Ptl. S.E. White.

Damien Sacher Williams, 29, of East Gale Street, Edenton, was arrested July 11 on Perquimans County warrant for a misdemeanor charge of failure to appear.

Jesean Robert Brown, 20, of West Carteret Street, Edenton, was arrested July 11 on misdemeanor charge of second-degree trespass and communicating threats. Arresting officer, Capt. D.C. Brown.

Natasha Zepora Gilliam, 36, of Hawthorne Road, Edenton, was arrested July 11 on a Perquimans County warrant of misdemeanor charges of failure to appear. Arresting officer, Capt. D.C. Brown.

Citations
Tyheim Tyrion Privott, 22, of Jackson Street, Edenton, was cited July 9 for driving while license revoked. Officer involved, Officer C.N. Skorupa.

TACO BELL

Continued from A1

from two or three sign companies last week wanting information on the town sign ordinance for the project. And recently, Town's Public Works received an inquiry from the civil engineer about a right-of-way question.

In other council business, council received a bit of good news when learning that the town's pre-application for the water main extension project was approved by the Rural Infrastructure Authority. Town's pre-application approval reserves \$479,000 for the Peanut Drive water main extension project. As part of the final application process, Town Hall was required to submit a preliminary engineering report (\$7,500). Council gave its approval to Wooten Company to prepare the required preliminary engineering report.

Speaking of infrastructure, the NC Department of Environmental Quality approved Wooten's engineering plans and speci-

cations for the repairs to the town's sanitary sewer collection system. In 2017, the town received a Golden Leaf Foundation grant to hire a contractor to videotape and clean the town's sewer collection system. Wooten Company analyzed the results and areas of repairs and/or line replacements were identified. The town received a \$1 million, zero-interest loan from the NC DEQ for repairing and replacing collection lines. The project is out to bid, with bids to open Aug. 6 and perhaps awarded during the council meeting on Aug. 13.

In other news, green bikes may be coming to town. These bikes can be rented. Users just need a credit card to lease a bike at a fully automated machines.

If everything goes as planned, the town would lease small area of the lawn on the north side of the municipal building. Town Attorney Hood Ellis will prepare a land lease at a price to be determined. Moreover, if someone crashes a bike, the town would not be held liable.

In other matters, council received an update on draft covenants for properties within the two neighborhood redevelopment zones that the town will acquire and then sell for redevelopment. The Edenton Historical Commission is the entity proposed to hold the covenants.

Also, council approved a resolution endorsing the idea of allowing early voting during two Saturdays in October leading up to the Nov. 5 municipal election. The town will have to pay for expense of the poll workers working those days.

And Tyler Bream updated council on the town's social media marketing project, <https://www.iloveedenton.com>. The project seeks to attract new residents to the community. Each month, former Councilman Bob Quinn and Tourism Director Nancy Nicholls meet with Bream to gauge the progress of the site, which has reached more than 28,000 folks, primarily in New York and DC.

In other matters, council approved a budget amendment for Fiscal Year 2019-20

for the final invoice for engineering and inspections services from Talbert & Bright for the Airport Fuel Farm Paving Project. Town Finance Director Virginia Smith prepared a budget amendment that adds \$10,352 in revenue to be received from the NC Division of Aviation Grant and the corresponding amount in the Airport Operations Budget.

In related budget news, council approved a budget amendment for FY 2018-19 as part of the fiscal year end close out. The General Fund has a transfer from police salaries to administrative that total \$5,038; a \$25,000 purchase for gasoline that had to be made late in the fiscal year; transfer from Police Salaries to Garage for minor expenditures and for gasoline purchase. In the Water and Sewer Fund, transfer from Water Operations to Water and Sewer Maintenance for fuel and minor miscellaneous expense. An amendment was needed in Airport Fund to add revenue from NC DOT to balance minor expenses; and a late year-end fuel purchase.

VIOLENCE

Continued from A1

see many young people at the event. "They can be the event's ambassadors and share what they learn here with others in their age group."

Part of changing the gun-violence narrative includes altering people's perceptions about law enforcement officials, said John Shannon, pastor of Providence Missionary Baptist Church. Marcus Jackson's family attends the Edenton church.

"People need to see law enforcement as a part of us," he said. "They love the same things we do."

Nicole Jackson's sister, Kimberly Lassiter-Bembry, spoke before the dove release held at the beginning of the event.

Marcus' aunt hoped that people came out of the event with a sense of connection.

"We are all part of one community. You know the old saying, 'It takes a village to raise a child?' Well

it's true," she said after the opening ceremony.

Lassiter-Bembry also hoped that the event helped destigmatize anxiety, depression and other mental health disorders.

"We want to confront those so we can improve the quality of a person's life, because it's something anyone can go through."

During the opening ceremony, Lassiter-Bembry noted that we all are united by pain.

"There is one thing that is not limited to one race. Every culture has it. No matter who you are, what color you are, what culture you come from, and your socioeconomic background, we all experience pain," Lassiter-Bembry said. "Anxiety is real. Depression is real. Nothing separates us."

We are all united by God as well, she said.

Four doves were released during the ceremony. The first one released signified Marcus Jackson and all of the others who were lost to gun violence. The other three

represented the great unifier, the holy trinity — God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

Shannon echoed Lassiter-Bembry's sentiments that everyone experiences pain.

"We can overcome it with joy," he said. "Violence is not the answer. People can go talk about their problems. They can learn that there is strength in family, in unity."

Lakeisha Lighty, with the Counseling Center in Elizabeth City, was among the counselors at the event. She said people who have been in car accidents or violent incidents, such a rape or a shooting, can develop post-traumatic stress disorder. The symptoms

include nightmares, avoiding particular situations and distrust of others.

Lighty said people who have or know someone who exhibits those symptoms should talk with someone in the mental health profession.

"They can also talk with their primary health provider," she said. "They have screening tools that can help them see if a patient needs additional help. The longer it goes untreated, the worse it can be."

Note: In a July 17 story, The Chowan Herald incorrectly reported how many grandchildren Nicole Jackson has. She has two grandchildren.

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