

# Church News



## WORDS OF HOPE

By Charles W. Godfrey,  
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A bumper sticker reads, "You are a child of God. Please call home!"

This is a striking way of saying, "Don't forget to pray. Your heavenly Father loves you and longs to hear from you." A theologian has said this very well:

"In all of our praying we need to begin with the recollection that God is again calling us to come. Our role is not that of initiating prayer but of obedient response. We speak to God in prayer because he has first spoken to us, just as we love God because, as John observed, God first loved us. All prayer is an act of obedience..."

"We tend not to recognize the prevenient action of God toward us and upon us, for we do not want to root our praying in obedience. We prefer to ground our prayer in our own need and desire, praying when we want to or need to." (Charles Whiston, *Pray, A Study of Distinctive Christian Praying*, Grand Rapids, Mich., Eerdmans, 1972, pp. 30, 31).

In other words, we should pray as a response to God's love, not merely because we

want or need something. Is this a new idea to you? Think it over. I believe you will agree that it will add new meaning to prayer.

Could it be that this type of prayer will place greater emphasis on praise and thanksgiving? That is the way we should respond to God's grace. Let us thank Him every day for the blessings of life, for family and friends and food and work. Let us thank Him for the forgiveness and salvation that He has provided in Christ, and let us thank Him for the assurances we have of His love and care. This kind of prayer will cause our relationship to God to become closer, warmer, and more real. We will not be merely going through the motions of saying our prayers—we will be "calling home." And we will go from these prayer sessions with something of the joy that we feel when we talk to a distant loved one over the telephone. It "makes our day."

How different this is from the prayers that consist almost entirely in requests.

Such prayers are like the phone calls home of college students who call only when they run out of money. "Give me" is the principle expression in many prayers. God is conceived of as a celestial coin-operated dispenser where we deposit our prayers and expect immediate returns. Often we pray for things we should not have or for things we should work for rather than pray for. Often our prayers are motivated by fear rather than love. They represent our final recourse when other means fail in our efforts to satisfy our desires.

This does not mean that we should not take our petitions to God. He listens lovingly and patiently to our needs and desires. His answer may be "no" or "wait" or "yes." But, in any case, He knows best. But the quality of our prayers would be greatly enhanced if we could, in our own way, from the depth of our own hearts, say some thing like this:

"Lord, because you have dealt so graciously with me, therefore I come to you to pray."



### Office Efficiency

Small businesses that do not have or need a computer are getting a big hand from a simple, accurate system that handles all bookkeeping functions, eliminating much of the errors and labor in record keeping. Here's how it works: all the documents are placed pancake style on top of each other on a pegboard so that one single writing does the total record keeping job. The saving of two-thirds the time is a major benefit of the system appropriately called a "one-write" or "pegboard" system.



The ability to accurately record check data to employee records has made pegboard payroll systems a big hit with small business.

Called a Pegboard System, it is not only a complete, workable entity in itself, it may also be used as a completely compatible data-entry vehicle for the computer, while providing that important audit trail and accurate data for electronic recording. According to the National Pegboard Systems Association, not only do some companies use it, but an increasing number of people use it to keep track of personal records and cancelled checks.

**Free Brochures**  
An informative brochure about one-write pegboard systems and their use is available free if you write to: National Pegboard Systems, 1010 Wisconsin Avenue N.W., S-630, Washington, D.C. 20007.

### IT'S A FACT!



One way to resolve the problem of aching feet is to massage them. Warm, swirling water provides that massaging affect. A holiday gift that would be extra nice for many massages feet and hands is called Foot Saver Plus, made by Dazey Corporation. It combines wet heat, massage and aeration work for comfort and relief. The appliance has Vibra-Nodes to stimulate tired muscles. Wet heat soothes aching feet, hands, elbows and wrists. Aeration eases tension. It can erase the day's tensions in just minutes.

## MT. AIRY NEWS

by Violet Locklear

Last Sunday was a real Christmas Sunday for us at church. We had a wonderful crowd with lots of visitors dropping in to worship with us. The Lord wonderfully blessed in our service. Three people trusted in Jesus for salvation. They were Mr. and Mrs. Milton Ray Locklear also Mr. Rudy Locklear of the Union Chapel area. We rejoiced at the altar and in the aisles over these victories in salvation. It was good to have a good member of Rudy's family visiting with us. This Sunday was a beautiful Christmas Sunday. Our group, enjoyed special music by our Young Adult Choir and Bro. Roscoe Jones. Several of our out of town relatives were home and in our church. The pastor's Christmas message was from John 1:14 "The Glory of the Only Begotten Son". The service was warmed by the presence of the Spirit in much power. I love Sunday at church.

Our Christmas drama was presented by the youth again this year. Mrs. Delois Lowry and Royce Cummings directed the youth in the story "The Dowry". A church full of people attended the 5:30 p.m. services. After the program, the youth went caroling in the neighborhood. They closed out the evening with hot chocolate at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Russell Locklear, Jr.

Our holiday season is also marred by grief as we remember the family of Mr. Louis Carter. Louis passed away Saturday morning after an extended illness. He and his family resided in Fayetteville. Please remember Mrs. Mary Ella Carter, his mother, and all of her children. Also Louis had a large family. We need to think of them and pray for them. He gave a wonderful testimony to his friends and family. We rejoice that he is comforted in the Lord.

The January Bible Study will be held Jan. 6-8 at our church. There will be sessions for all ages. Adults will be in Hebrews; Youth in Deuteronomy.

The pastor and the youth choir will be at the Assembly of God Church in Fayetteville this Saturday night at 7 p.m. If you want to, you can go along.

There will be a Blood Drive for the Red Cross on January 4th at the Mt. Airy Fellowship Hall. Our goal is to reach 110 units. Bro. Harlie Well Locklear is in charge. I can remember very well when I had to have blood and also my son, in order for us to survive. I encourage all who can and will to donate for blood is definitely our life.

S.F.C. (E7) Easter Jahn and family of Alexandria, Va. are spending a few days with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lee Alford Locklear. She attended church Sunday.

PFC Dwight Locklear of Fort Knox, Kentucky, Mr. Craig Allen Locklear of New Mexico and Mr. Gene Locklear of San Diego, California are all home for Christmas and attended church Sunday.

Mrs. Fannie Lowry remains a patient in Southeastern General Hospital. Her condition remains serious.

Miss Willie Mae Locklear is a patient in Southeastern General Hospital. Remember her also in your prayers.

Rev. Joseph Oxendine is home but he is in a very weak condition after being in Duke Hospital for a long time.

We are still remembering Wanda Brayboy. She is home but is not doing well.

### CHRISTMAS

The first Christmas without Mom was the saddest one I ever experienced. For to me it had always been a precious time when we could get together. But now so many of our loved ones are not with us. There is more also to Christmas than exchanging gifts. The most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen and even touched. They must be felt with the heart.

After all, this is the time of year when all of us should be together with our families, giving thanks for our many blessings and sharing with all mankind the spirit of brotherhood which began under the Star of Bethlehem over 2,000 years ago.

My fondest hope is that the words "Peace on Earth, Goodwill Toward Men", become more than just a slogan for this Holiday season.

And my prayer is—  
Dear Lord, grant that my soul may be as decorated as my tree, strung with lights of love that glow and warm the lives of all I know. Upon my thoughts and words and deed and lend my hands to others' needs. This Christmas ask yourself the question What is the greatest gift I can give to my loved ones and God?

### THE NEW YEAR APPROACHING

Soon we come to the end of the year—only a little time, yet remains before the bells ring out the advent of a new year. So our lives move on onward down the river of time. We do not stop and think of the destiny of our lives very often. Too often we live our days on the surface and give no thought to these deeper facts of existence.

My father was always a big man at heart until the day he left this mortal world. As a fine Christian man. He always could quote scriptures with the right passage for every occasion. He would say "Remember to serve God while you are still afloat on the river of time."

And so, as the year comes to an end, may we ever stand on the bank of the river of time and thank our Almighty God for the fleeting years he has given us. For He tells us in Revelation "Behold I make all things new."

And so as we come to the beginning of a new year. It would be better to say "Happy New You" So let's be thankful for the good things that happened in the year about to end. Christ is the only Eternal fact in the world's history. To him every thing looks forward or backward. So happy new year to everyone and may God bless you all.

### DEEPEST SYMPATHY

Our deepest sympathy also goes out to the Brewington Family, husband and all family ties of Mrs. Zenatta Gale Regan and also to Mr. and Mrs. Ray Locklear and all the family ties of Master Alton Ray Locklear. For a loved one to die is a heart breaking experience. But for that one to live might be worse, very much worse. Who but God really knows? Thus let us not judge God until all the facts are before us. The loss of a loved one is often referred to as a blow. For a while you are going to be dazed and no one who has lost a loved one can expect to feel the same as always. There are certain inevitabilities in life and death is one of them. It comes to all of us sooner or later. We all share it. As the old song tells us—Not now but in the coming years, I may be in the better land. We'll read the meaning of our tears and there, some time we'll understand.

## UNDERSTANDING OUR ECONOMY

### CONRAIL: CREATE JOBS, ELIMINATE SUBSIDIES

What will become of Conrail? How long can it survive? How will it survive?

These are the questions of shippers, customers, employees whose jobs depend on Conrail's survival, and American taxpayers who have pumped \$7 billion of government subsidies into the railroad—the same taxpayers who may again be forced to bail-out Conrail if it cannot be restored to financial health.

Transportation Secretary Elizabeth Dole took a decisive step in that direction in February when she selected Norfolk Southern Corporation from among several bidders to purchase the government's 85 percent share of Conrail for \$1.2 billion.

She said Norfolk Southern would offer Conrail a firm financial foundation by joining it to a healthy rail network that extends throughout the south and midwest. Single-system longhaul routes would create operating efficiencies that would reduce rates, channel new traffic onto Conrail and ease its dependence on traditional—and declining—northeastern smokestack industries. With more than 80 percent of all goods in the northeast now moving by truck over the highways, Norfolk Southern could help Conrail get some of that freight back on the rails, offering shippers a competitive option.

Since the demise of the northeastern railroads over the past quarter century, financial instability has raised



questions of whether rail could ever thrive again in that part of the country. The proposal to sell Conrail to Norfolk Southern is the government's bet that rail can not only survive, but prosper in the northeast. A look at recent facts indicates that Conrail, currently showing a profit, would have difficulty surviving on its own.

Conrail's freight tonnage in 1984 was half the amount carried by its predecessors in 1964; just some 60,000 jobs have been cut since 1976; and, so far in 1985, Conrail's traffic is nine percent below their plan, with revenues off six percent and net income down 40 percent.

Norfolk Southern says it can halt that decline by opening new north-south routes that will be attractive to shippers. Its industrial development specialists are confident that new business can be attracted to the northeast and upper midwest once rail stability is restored to the region, with the effect of not only generating increased traffic for the railroad but also creat-

ing new jobs in an economically depressed area.

Congress must now approve Secretary Dole's selection of Norfolk Southern. Spoilers and second-guessers have delayed action by the lawmakers, and now Conrail's future teeters on the brink of continued uncertainty. Some suggest leaving Conrail alone, ignoring the inescapable results of declining traffic and limited market reach. Others have urged Congress to sell Conrail to the public through a stock offering, but it would still be forced to stand alone against steep odds.

President Reagan believes the most reasonable solution has already been proposed by his transportation chief, consolidate an ailing Conrail with a thriving Norfolk Southern. He insists that government has no business running a railroad, that the private sector is where Conrail belongs, without further delay on the U.S. Treasury. He wants to give Norfolk Southern the chance to turn a loser into a winner.

## SUSAN LUCCI'S WALNUT PESTO

Ever wonder what are some of your favorite soap opera stars' most cherished recipes? Susan Lucci, star of television's number one rated daytime soap, reveals one of her family's most-often requested pasta dishes: Walnut Pesto. It's an updated version of an Italian favorite.

"My busy schedule requires that the food I prepare be quick and easy. Walnut Pesto fits my needs perfectly. I can whip it up in no time in my food processor. Sometimes I double the recipe and freeze half for later. The Diamond Walnuts add extra flavor, texture and nutrition," says Lucci.

Currently Susan is acting as spokesperson for the Diamond Walnut World's Richest Recipe Sweepstakes. A \$25,000 diamond necklace plus more than \$65,000 in other prizes will be given away. Details about entering the Sweepstakes are available at your favorite supermarket.



### WALNUT PESTO

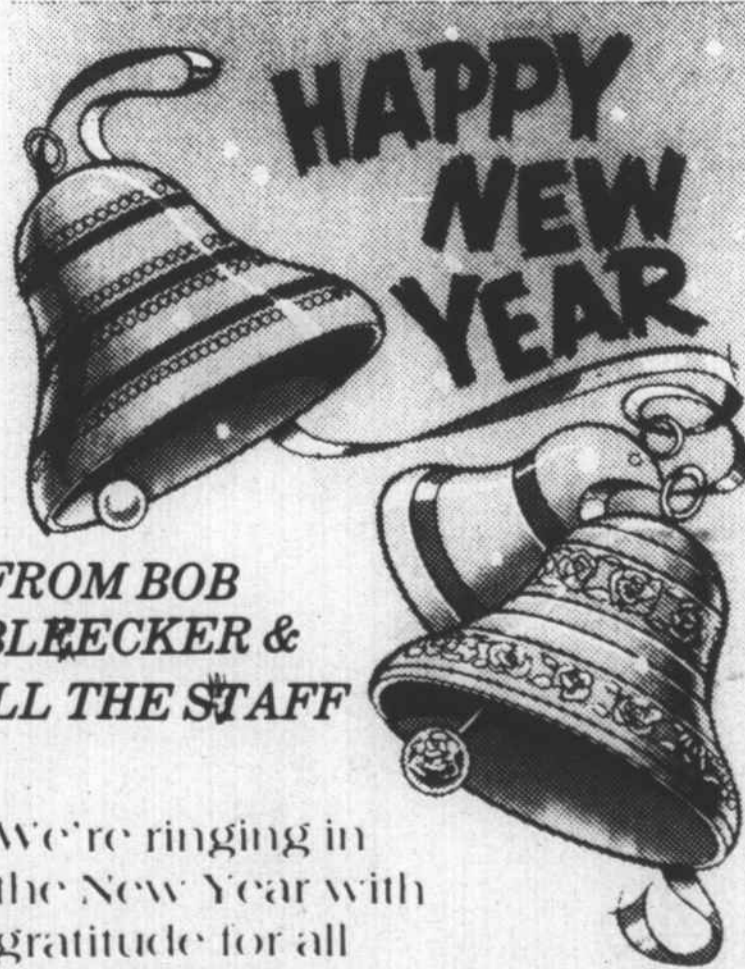
- 2/3 cup Diamond Walnuts
- 1 teaspoon cooking oil
- 1 large clove garlic
- 1 cup lightly packed fresh basil leaves
- 1/4 cup lightly packed parsley leaves
- 1/4 teaspoon marjoram or Italian herb seasoning mix
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 cup cooking oil
- 1/4 cup grated Romano or Parmesan cheese

In skillet over moderate heat, toast walnuts in the

1 teaspoon oil about 5 minutes, stirring frequently; coarsely chop 1/3 cup and reserve for use with pasta. Place remaining walnuts in blender or food processor along with garlic, basil, parsley, marjoram, salt and the 1/4 cup oil. Blend or process until mixture is fine; add cheese and blend again. If storing overnight or longer, place mixture into a jar, spoon an additional teaspoon oil over top; cover and refrigerate until ready to use. Makes about 2/3 cup pesto.

*Pasta with Walnut Pesto:* Cook 8 ounces of any type pasta as package directs; drain well. While hot, toss with 1/3 to 1/2 cup Walnut Pesto. Add reserved 1/3 cup walnuts and 1/2 cup small cubes Monterey Jack or Cheddar cheese; toss gently, adding a tablespoon or two of butter if a richer sauce is desired. Serve topped with a sprinkling of grated Romano or Parmesan cheese. Makes 4 servings pasta.

*Variation:* For a change of pace, cook two different kinds of pasta such as spinach noodles and spaghetti. Toss together or separately with the pesto.



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The Fiji Islands, Barbados and Iceland do not have armed forces.



Some of the most powerful flying fish can jump over the deck of a small ship.