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# **Church & Religion**

William And Margaret Elder

### **Rev. Durnell** "A Gracious God"

"And the Lord God-made for Adam and Eve garments of sins, and-clothed them." GENESIS 3:21

Think of God. Take a moment and think of God. In your mind's eye try to form a mental picture of God. How do you envision God?

I once met a five-year old youngster by the name of George who pictured God as some fire breathing tyrant. George imagined God as some mean and sadistic tyrant who liked nothing more than to inflict pain on naughty children by sending them to an eternal fiery pit. Such a picture of the Almighty is not limited to children like George. Many adults labor under this same vision of God as a hard taskmaster who waits in the heavens to pour out his wrath on anyone who steps out of line. A nineteen-year old young woman by the name of Doris, whom I had the privilege: of meeting, pictured God as a benevolent bailiff. For most of her nineteen years. Doris had been in and out of serious trouble with the law. Whenever she got into a tight situation, Doris called on God for help. Time after time she was able to wiggle out of severe punishment. Consequently, Doris pictured God as a benevolent bailiff. I am confident that there are a legion of folk who can identify with this concept of the Eternal Being. In time of desperation and trouble, many call on God for help. The concern is that our God is not just, "a bridge over troubled waters," God is much more. . God is not a benevolent bailiff, neither is God a fire breathing tyrant. The God of heaven and earth is not a policeman, nor is God a good humor man. God is not a Santa Claus, neither is God a superstar. How then should we picture God? The problem for us is that the Almighty is hidden from us. We cannot see God. Our arms are too short for us to reach up high enough into the heavens to grasp hold of Gods illuminated collar in order to stare him straight in the face. Therefore, the only way for us to rightly see God is by God coming to us. God must come out from hiding in order for us to behold him as he is. And God has! As small children, we sang the song; "Jesus loves me. this I know, for the Bible tells me so." The Bible shows us who God is. We know God as we see him act and speak in the recorded events of the Holy Bible. And in the first book of the Bible, we soon discover that God created all that is. God created the first human beings and set them in a perfect environment. God gave this man and woman one law. This man, Adam, and his wife, Eve, broke God's law. The punishment for such a crime was death, but God gave them life. God pronounced punishment upon them, but even his wrath was tempered by his tenderness. God did not leave them in their nakedness and shame. God clothed them. He gave them a robe to cover their tarnished bodies... We see from this story, and from the entire witness of Scripture, that God is a Gracious God. God's final word is never damnation but salvation. God's final word is not alienation, but reconciliation. For "God is Love." -Rev. Warner Durnell

## **Elders Have Anniversary**

Reverend William Elder and held this capacity for 17 the parking lot, purchased celebrated his 17th anni- years.

versary last Sunday as pas- Rev. Elder has also tor of the Middle Fork served on the usher board Christian Church, with before becoming president morning and afternoon ser- of the board. He was also vices at the church. chairman of the deacon Elder has been pastor of board. As minister of the Middle Fork since 1962 church, he has helped to MARC RELATION

minister by the late Rev. lishments.

G.W. Moir. Elder became Since becoming pastor of a member of the church in the church it has purchased 1944. new pews, new carpeting, As a member of the remodeled by adding the church Elder served in pastor's study, choir room,

numerous capacities before remodeled the fellowship taking over the reins. He hall, brick veneered the became sexton of the church and also improved church and had to build the church grounds of the anniversary, the young fires in a wooden stove. He church by putting brick vall adult choir changed their later became Superinten- steps and stepways. The name to the "William Elder dent of the Sunday School church has also renovated Celestial Singers."

## Word Of God

Thou wilt keep him. in perfect peace, whose mind	Thou shalt not commit adultery. <i>Exodus 20:14</i>
is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee. Isaiah 26:3	Who can find a vir- tuous woman? for her price is far above ru- bies.
Give unto the Lord, O ye mighty, give unto the Lord glory and strength. Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holi- ness.	The heart of her hus- band doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil. She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life.
The voice of the Lord is upon the waters: the God of glory thunder-	She riseth also while it is 'yet night, and giveth meat to her household, and a portion to her

a new organ, had a baptismal pool installed, air conditioning installed, purchased a mimeograph and amplifier set.

Rev. Elder is a native of Winston-Salem. He is president of the Ministers California international data and

Tri-State District Convention. He is married to the former Margaret Martin. The anniversary honored

the pastor and his wife. A birthday dinner was also. given in the fellowship hall of the church. Also in honor of the pastor on his

openeth

and in her tongue is the

She looketh well to the

ways of her household,

and eateth not the

Her children arise up

and call her blessed

Many daughters have

done virtuously, but thou excellest them all.

Favor is deceitful; and

beauty is vain: but a

er husband also.

law of kindness

bread of idleness

he praiseth her.

with wisdom:

mouth

her

BAKED FRESH DAILY KAISER	LUAP	• • •
ROLLS	6 CT. PKG.	79
SWEET SHOPPE FUDGE		
BROWNIES	007	\$18
SWEET SHOPPE DANISH PASTR	Y PINWI	IFEL
COFFEE CAKES	FACH	
7 IN. DOUBLE LAYER CHERRY O	R SPICE	
CAKE.	EACH	\$32
COOKIES	DOZ.	\$11
MADE FRESH DAILY HOT CHEE	SE &	
MACARONI	LB.	99

BAKED FRESH DAILY CHE

PASTRAMI

BREAD

and the a	
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WEET SHOPPE DANISH PASTRY PINWHEEL	SERVED WITH 2 VEGETABLES, 2 ROLLS OR 2 HUSHPUPPIES, SALISBURY
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COFFEE

Bag

**Church Notes** 

## Marriage

There will be a special Church in Walnut Cove. service on marriage and All young people are urged young couples being held at 11 a.m. Sunday March 11 at to attend. Rev. Robert the Rising Star Baptist Hairston is pastor.

## St. Matthews

Wheeler Street.

A cordial welcome is

On Sunday, March 11, tist Church, located at 149 1979 at 3:00 p.m. Rev. R.O. Allen, pastor of Goodwill and Mt. Olive Baptist extended to everyone who churches and congregation, wishes to attend this will worship with The service. Rev. C. Harold Greater St. Matthews Bap. Gill is pastor.



