



The Sons of Allen are from left to right, first row: Ronald Nelson, Mac Paylor, Jerry Hughes, Pastor Larry McDonald, Phillip Norwood; on stairs from left, Robert Royster, Alvin Brandon, Percy Ferrel, George Clay and Fred Mitchell.

## Sons of Allen to celebrate 22nd Homecoming Concert

The Sons of Allen of Allen Chapel A.M.E. Church will present their 22nd annual Homecoming Concert on Sunday, Dec. 4, at 2:55 p.m. The theme for this program is "God's word is like fire."

Well-known local recording artist, Brother Michael Whitfield, will render selections at

2:15 p.m. prior to the concert.

Allen Chapel Pastor Larry McDonald and First Lady Sheila McDonald will be master and mistress of ceremony.

The Sons of Allen Male Chorus was first organized in the spring of 1978 under the leadership of former Pastor Larnie G. Horton. The Sons of Allen have

traveled throughout North Carolina, Virginia and Washington, D.C. spreading the gospel through song.

Pastor and First Lady McDonald join the officers and members of Allen Chapel to invite all to come and enjoy an afternoon of special music and fellowship.

### CHURCH ACTIVITIES

#### Upcoming events in area churches

**ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH** will hold a special Christmas event immediately after church on Dec. 11. *Magic and Mistletoe* will offer holiday cheer and a chance to purchase distinctive gifts written, painted, built, baked or otherwise crafted by members of the congregation. A raffle for a few "big" items will be part of the fun. All proceeds will go to St. Mark's Care Fund, which aids local families in emergency situations. The event will take place from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Parish House, directly behind the church at 422 N. Main St. All are invited.

Christmas at Roxboro will be held at **ROXBORO BAPTIST CHURCH**, 202 South Main St. on Sunday, Dec. 4 at 5 p.m.

**CONCORD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH** will hold a Special Children's Christmas Program and Birthday Party for Jesus on Sunday, Dec. 11 at 5:30 p.m.

Everyone is invited to join **PROVIDENCE BAPTIST CHURCH** on Sunday, Dec. 4 from 6 to 8 p.m. when the Rev. Kenny Dubnick will be sharing about his experience as a missionary for the International Mission Study. Everyone

is asked to bring a finger food to share — drinks and paper goods will be provided by the church. Call Kaye Duncan at 336-599-8867 for more information.

The **ROXBORO CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S CLUB** will hold a Holly Days Luncheon on Thursday, Dec. 8 from noon to 1:30 p.m. at the Homestead Steak House. The speaker will be Sue Falcone. The special feature will be "Our Gift To You." For reservations, call Betty at 364-2641 or Foy at 364-2283 by Dec. 5. The cost is \$10.

**TRIPLE SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH** will present a Lottie Moon drama on Sunday, Dec. 4 during the 11 a.m. service. Patricia Swann, a.k.a. Lottie Moon, will tell about her life as a missionary. Come join in the dramatic adventure and the life of one of the most devoted missionaries of all time.

### IN CONCERT

Mt. Harmony Church will host **THE INSPIRATIONS** of Bryson City in a gospel concert on Thursday, Dec. 8 at 7 p.m. There is no admission charge, however a love offering will be taken to cover expenses. For more infor-

mation, contact Woody Painter at [wpainter@esinc.net](mailto:wpainter@esinc.net).

### REVIVALS

**ROCK GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH** will hold a Saturday Night Revival on Dec. 3 at 6 p.m. Ben Ellis, youth pastor of Mt. Harmony will speak and the Mt. Harmony Youth Band will perform. Pizza will be served.

In addition to submitting your Church News item in writing for the print edition of *The Courier-Times*, you may also publish your announcement on our new online Person County Community Calendar. Go to [personcountylife.com](http://personcountylife.com), find the "Your Community" area on the front page and click "Submit an Event," and simply enter your information.

To publish church news in *The Courier-Times*: • Put news items in writing • Announcements generally can be published one time only • Include a name and daytime telephone number for someone we can call for clarifications. • Observe the Church and Religion News deadline, which is Wednesday for Saturday's paper.

## God inhabits the praises of his people

"But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel." (Psalm 22:3)



### SALT AND LIGHT

MIKE RUFFIN

**A NOTE** from Mike: My Web site, [devotions.com](http://devotions.com), features over 600 devotions and over a year's time, these 600 devotions are read almost one million times a year. This devotion is the #1 devotion on my Web site, and why not — its message is eternal.

If you go to church with any regularity, you may have heard your music minister say, "God inhabits the praises of his people."

I always thought that statement was nothing more than a way to get me to sing the praise choruses that so many of our churches use now.

The truth is we should heed that advice. It's not just that it's scriptural. It's one of God's principles that work when we apply it.

Many of you probably did not know Roger Bennett. Roger Bennett was a Southern gospel piano player and songwriter who made a living serving the Lord in the ministry of music. Unfortunately, he succumbed to cancer in 2007 after an 11-year battle.

The last several years were not particularly easy ones for Bennett. He had leukemia, which he thought was in remission, only to see it rage back in his life with vengeance. He fought it valiantly, but realized that the disease was winning, so he decided to take a stand and underwent a bone marrow transplant at the M. D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas — the first of three.

Bennett wrote about his experiences on his Web site, Roger Bennett's Midnight Meditations.

"I am convinced," he told his readers, "that our enemy stalks us exactly in the way the Bible describes him, a roaring lion. He hides in the bushes waiting for any sign of weakness and then he strikes."

Bennett admitted that his faith became weak in the loneliness that is associated with bone marrow transplants. He mentioned one particular night when he "bottomed out."

"He didn't strike me physically," Bennett wrote. "That had been accomplished for him by the chemo. He struck a more critical part of my being — my joy, my confidence, my hope. Every

thought I turned toward heaven bounced back to me as if it were made of brass. Every time I tried to look on the bright side, I ended up imagining a very dark future. Then he threw his most effective dart at me — doubt. 'You call yourself a Christian,' he said. 'What a hypocrite! You wrote, Don't be afraid, and yet you are more afraid now than you've ever been. You wrote about joy and yet now you are filled with despair. So much for your faith, Mr. Gospel singer.'"

Indeed, Bennett had hit rock bottom. "I believed everything Satan said," he admitted. "I tried everything I knew to pull out of it — all to no avail. I thought if I could just doze off, this will pass by morning. But the clock seemed to move in slow motion. Sleep was nowhere near. I tried to lose myself in the Bible, but the words blurred to my eyes and I couldn't make any sense of them."

Finally, Bennett had an epiphany, a revelation of sorts. He thought about the story told in Acts when Paul and Silas were in jail.

"They didn't despair," he said. "They sang... It became their weapon."

So Bennett began singing. "One after another these old songs came to my memory and I sang them to my empty room. It wasn't a great performance, but it may have been the most powerful blessing I've received in my life."

Roger Bennett realized just how true God is to his word. He really does inhabit the praises of his people.

When it begins to rain in your life, take Roger Bennett's (and God's) advice. Sing the gospel and allow it take root in your heart. You may not sing your blues away, but I'll bet you'll feel the presence of a pretty powerful friend.

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## In concert

The Arise Quartet will be in concert Saturday, Dec. 10 at 7 p.m. at Faith Independent Baptist Church, 500 Lucy Garrett Rd. Everyone is invited to come and worship.

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### PERSON COUNTY CHURCH DIRECTORY

#### BAPTIST

##### Ca-Vel Baptist Church

1885 N. Main St.; 336-599-7798 Rev. Richard Long Sun. School 10 am; Worship 11 am; Sun. Evening service 6 pm; Wed. Service 7 pm

##### Prospect Hill Baptist Church

301 Bethel Hill School Rd. 597-2680; Rev. George Harris Jr. Sunday School 9:45 a.m.; Worship Service 11 a.m.; Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.

#### CHURCH OF CHRIST

##### Roxboro Church of Christ

2567 Burlington Rd. 599-2556 [www.roxborochurchofchrist.org](http://www.roxborochurchofchrist.org) Minister Wayne Sinquefield; Sun. School 10 am; Worship 11 am

#### CHURCH OF GOD

##### Roxboro Church of God

1415 N. Main St. 336-599-3753 Rev. Harold Palmer; SS 9:30 am; Worship 10:30 am & 6 pm; Wed. Family Training Hour 7:30 pm

#### EPISCOPAL

##### St. Mark's Episcopal Church

422 North Main St., 336-597-2171; Rev. Harmon L. Smith, Vicar; Sun. School 9 am; Mass 10:30 am; Wed. Morning Prayer 7:30 am

#### METHODIST - UNITED

##### Concord United Methodist Church

70 Concord Church Rd., 599-6262; Rev. Karl Neuschaefer; Children Choir 9:15 a.m.; Sun. Sch. 9:45 a.m.; Worship 8:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall; Worship 11 a.m.; Wed. Group Study 10 a.m.; 2nd & 4th Sun. UMYF 5 p.m.

##### Oak Grove United Methodist Church

854 Oak Grove-Mt. Zion Rd. 597-5042; Pastor Pam Watkins SS: 10 a.m., Worship: 11 a.m. [oakgroveumcrox@embarqmail.com](mailto:oakgroveumcrox@embarqmail.com); [sites.google.com/site/oakgroveumcroxboro](http://sites.google.com/site/oakgroveumcroxboro)

#### NON-DENOMINATIONAL

##### Greater Deliverance Tabernacle

199 Flat River Church Rd.; 597-2560; Bishop Willie L. Parker; Sun. School 9 - 9:45 am; Worship 11 a.m.; Wed. Night Service 7-8 p.m.

#### PENTECOSTAL

##### First Pentecostal Church of Roxboro

707 North Main St. • 336-330-0600 • Matthew Wilmoth, pastor Sunday Morning 11 a.m. Tuesday Evening 7:30 p.m.

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**ANNUAL CLOTHING GIVEAWAY**

Roxboro Church of Christ  
2567 Burlington Rd., Roxboro, NC 27573 • 336-599-2556

**Saturday, December 3rd**  
8:30am - 12noon

If your church would like to be listed in this directory call 1-800-293-4709 or e-mail [churchrep@kwnews.com](mailto:churchrep@kwnews.com)