

The fabric of Bertie County since 1832

Faith

Lessons from the hunt

I have always loved and appreciated the beauty and splendor of God's creation. The natural beauty surrounding us is a constant connection to God as I observe His marvelous handiwork.

I can never recall a time that I did not love being outdoors. Activities such as hunting, fishing, boating, camping and hiking are my default preferences for ways to spend my free time.

Through the years the most passionate of those outdoor pursuits has been archery hunting. The challenge of pursuing game within a few yards in order to make a harvest has always proven to be a worthy challenge.

These are some lessons I have learned through my hunting experiences that have both practical and spiritual applications as well. I'll share four of those with you here.

Preparation – Ben Franklin said, "By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail." Hunting, like any successful pursuit requires a great deal of planning and preparation. Many more hours are spent on the planning and preparation for an upcoming hunting season than are actually spent afield.

When a trophy animal is harvested, it is often referred to as luck. While that may play a role in outdoor pursuits, there is no substitute for planning and hard work. If you want to increase

"This is the day the Lord has made."

- PSALM 118:24



PASTOR JAY RIVENBARK

your odds of success in anything you're attempting, planning and preparation are critical.

Solitude – With all the expectations and pressures of life, there is a huge demand placed upon our time and energy.

Finding some down time to refresh and recharge is critical to our bodies, mind and spirit. Jesus himself took time to find a place of solitude to rest and to pray.

Some of my greatest times of refreshing for my soul have come while being alone in a tree stand meditating, praying and worshipping God. Don't be afraid to experience times of solitude.

Perspective – The word itself can be used in reference to a change in a natural view or a change in a mental outlook. Hunting affords me both. From an elevated tree stand, the perspective of everything changes.

The things on the ground seem much smaller and I'm able to see things and places I could never see from a ground level position.

Sometimes we need to experience a change of perspective in order to see things the way God would have us to view them. Isaiah 55:9 (NIV) says, "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts"

Patience and Perseverance – These are not my strongest points! Hunting however has trained me to be more disciplined, patient and to persevere.

Even if I scout, plan, prepare and have a good perspective, it does not guarantee success. Hunting with a bow and arrow may take weeks, months, or even years before making a successful harvest. Galatians 6:9 (NIV) is a great reminder of this concept. "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."

Whatever our personal or professional pursuits and interest are, we can always learn some valuable lessons from them. Occasionally take time to slow down, get alone and get a fresh perspective on things so that you're planning and preparations can be maximized according to God's purpose.

Pastor Jay Rivenbark is Pastor of Open Door Church - Bertie Campus. He can be reached via email at jay@visitopendoor.com.

Words of life and death

A month after dropping the first atomic bomb, Robert Lewis, co-pilot of the Enola Gay, shared in an interview, "What have we done? The entire city disappeared."

A few years later, on December 20, 1951 the night sky in Arco, Idaho lit up brightly. The same immense force created by splitting the atom was used this time for the good of producing electricity, not destruction.

"The tongue is a small thing, but what enormous damage it can do. A great forest can be set on fire by one tiny spark...the tongue can turn our whole lives into a blazing flame of destruction and disaster." -James 3:5-6

Without our tongue, we would be unable to taste, swallow, speak, or sing. We take this small part of our body for granted, but Scripture warns that the tongue is one of the most dangerous parts about us. With a harsh word, we can break a spirit. With the spread of gossip, we can destroy a reputation. Once spoken, our words can never be taken back. The quote, "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt" is perhaps the biggest lie ever uttered.

"Be still and know that I am God."

- PSALM 46:10



REV. CHARLIE LANIER

Death and life are in the power of the tongue. – Proverbs 18:21

Our words are a crucial element in all our relationships. According to one study the average person opens his or her mouth to speak 700 times in a day – give or take. On any given day as you pick up the phone, speak to a cashier, or chat with a friend, you have 700 opportunities to speak words of life and death.

There was something about Jesus' words that made him different. Jesus was full of grace and truth. The Gospel of John records, "No one ever spoke like this man does" (John 7:46).

In Genesis, God spoke words, and there was light and life. In the beginning was the Word (John 1:1). Most of Jesus' miracles happened through words. Jesus spoke and the lame man walked; the lepers were healed;

the storms and waves were calmed; the dead were raised. God's words give life.

Because we are made in the Image of God, Scripture says that our words have the power of life as well. Jesus says, "Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks." As we live by faith and give our hearts to the Lord, we lay down our lives and the Spirit of Christ lives within us. Our words then have the potential to be words of life. Words that can speak truth, build up, and revive.

We can encourage the defeated with words of life – "You are more than conquerors through Christ who loved us" (Romans 8:37). We can reassure the guilty – "In Christ, you are a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"

We can inspire the ordinary – "You are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for you to do" (Ephesians 2:10).

The Rev. Charlie Lanier is Pastor of Capeharts Baptist Church near Merry Hill. He can be reached via email at charlielanier@hotmail.com.

Special events

Church announcements are published each week in the Bertie Ledger-Advance. The deadline to submit news items for this listing is 10 a.m. each Monday. Submissions may be emailed to twhite@ncweeklies.com.

Jan. 29

Black Heritage Tea

WINDSOR – The 30th annual Black Heritage Tea will be held at 3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 29 at St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church.

The guest speaker will be the Rev. Stacy Best of Warren Grove Missionary Baptist Church in Edenton. His choir, ushers and congregation will accompany him.

The church is located at 1352 Woodard Rd. in Windsor. The Pastor, the Rev. Dr. James R. Wrighton, and congregation invite the public to attend.

Concert

WINDSOR – Sue Britt of "Called Out, Too" will be in gospel concert during the 11 a.m. Morning Worship Service on Sunday, Jan. 29 at Ross Baptist Church.

A love offering will be taken.

Preschool childcare is available.

The church is located at 1020 Bull Hill Rd. in Windsor.

For more information, contact the church office at 252-794-4339.

The Pastor, the Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Russell, and congregation invites the public to attend.

Organist visits

WINDSOR – World famous organist Dorothy Papadakos will be playing the organ at 11 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 29 at St. Thomas' Episcopal Church.

Papadakos is known worldwide for her ability to play the organ, and was the first female to serve as Cathedral Organist at St. John the Divine in New York City.

Following the morning worship service, she will conduct a reading from her new book "The Kingdoms of the Season" and will sign books for those in attendance.

The church is located at the corner of Queen and Gray streets in Windsor.

The congregation invites the public to attend.

Special guests

AHOSKIE – Clint Freeman and Unity will be the guests at 11 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 29 at Calvary Missionary Baptist Church.

The church is located at 600 North Catherine St. in Ahoskie.

The Pastor, Jerryl V. Moody, and congregation invite the public to attend.

Ongoing

Help needed

WILLIAMSTON - New Fellowship Church and Project Feed The 5000 is asking for help with donations of pet food for older adults who have pets as their only family member.

For information on how to donate bagged or canned dog/cat food, call 252-792-7191.

Women Praying

WILLIAMSTON - Prayer is being made for Williamston.

All women are welcome to come and pray any time between noon and 2 p.m. at Word of Truth Fellowship, 1003 Washington St., Williamston.

For more information, call 252-792-0678.

Food Pantry

WILLIAMSTON - The Food Pantry at the Bible Way Apostolic Church is open from 8-10 a.m. The church is located at Sycamore and Center streets in Williamston.

BANKRUPTCY

STOP Foreclosure
STOP Lawsuits
STOP Car Repossession
STOP Tax Levies and Garnishments
Call Allen C. Brown Attorney
#252-752-0753

A Debt Relief Agency helping people eliminate debt through bankruptcy

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Notice of Public Hearings Relative to a Proposed Community Service Block Grant Anti-Poverty Plan for FY 2017 – 2018.

Notice is hereby given that public hearings will be held by Choanoke Area Development Association of N.C. Inc. (CADA) for the purpose of receiving comments from the public concerning FY 2017 – 2018 Community Service Grant funding and the proposed Anti-Poverty Plan.

Bertie County

Bertie County NC Works Center
 128 East Granville Street
 Windsor, North Carolina 27983

Friday, February 3, 2017
 10:00am – 11:00am

Martin County

Martin County NC Works Center
 407 East Blvd.
 Williamston, NC 27892

Friday, February 3, 2017
 1:00pm – 2:00pm

All interested persons are encouraged to attend the hearing to make comments and recommendations. We are currently in the planning process, so this will be a general session to provide the community with a summary of the CSBG program as well as a brief question/answer session. All recommendations will be welcomed in order to create a program that will impact the community. Written comments will be accepted until February 10, 2017. Comments may be mailed to:

Sallie Surface, Executive Director
 Choanoke Area Development Association of N.C. Inc. (CADA)
 P.O. Box 530
 Rich Square, NC 27869
 252.539.4155

THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

When I remember You on my bed, I meditate on You in the night watches, For You have been my help... Psalm 63:6,7

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BIBLE TRIVIA
 by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Malachi in the Old or New Testament or neither?
 2. From 1 Kings 19, what prophet experienced an earthquake while standing on a mountaintop? Paul, Ahab, Andrew, Elijah
 3. Who was the first woman to be ashamed of her lack of clothing? Eve, Anna, Pilate's wife, Miriam
 4. Which king was stricken with leprosy because he disobeyed God's command and burned incense on a holy altar? Uzziah, Solomon, Joab, Petra
 5. Where did Jesus raise Lazarus from the dead? Sinai, Bethany, Tarsus, Smyrna
 6. In Acts 9, what dressmaker was restored to life by Peter's prayers? Naomi, Priscilla, Lydia, Dorcas
- ANSWERS: 1) Old; 2) Elijah; 3) Eve; 4) Uzziah; 5) Bethany; 6) Dorcas
 Comments? More Trivia? Visit www.TriviaGuy.com

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