

Lucas

From A1

Lucas has been Senior Pastor of Mt. Herman Missionary Baptist Church in Aulander since her career started in Bertie County.

"I came to Mt. Herman as an interim pastor and after six months I suggested the church may want to start looking for a full-time senior pastor. Shortly after the board told me they had selected me to become their senior pastor," said Lucas.

According to Lucas, this was an honor because she became the first female pastor of Mt Herman Missionary

Baptist Church in their over 100-year-old history.

Lucas also currently serves as Interim Pastor of Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church in Lewiston-Woodville.

When asked, what is it like to balance pastoring two churches at the same time, Lucas replied, "It takes a lot of prayer, but because I enjoy doing it, it is not problematic for me. I have a lot of support and help."

"I like being a pastor, preaching and teaching the word of God," she added.

Lucas also has served as Chaplain at Vidant

Roanoke Chowan Hospital and volunteer chaplain in the past at Vidant Bertie Hospital.

"I enjoyed serving as chaplain and I intend on serving again. It gives you an opportunity to meet diverse people that you would not meet in your local church," she said.

She is also an active member of the West Roanoke Missionary Baptist Church Association. She serves on the Ordination and Catechism Committee, Nominations and Elections Committee and the Ministerial Committee.

Lucas is also formally

a member of the Smart Start Committee.

"I knew God call me into evangelism but then I was called to be a pastor," said Lucas.

According to Lucas, her favorite scripture is Trust in the Lord with all your heart and not lean on your own understanding; and in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight, Proverbs 3:5-6.

"I like to see lives transformed and to have someone come and shake your hand and say that word was for me, or when someone calls and shares their personal story

of how your teaching is transforming their lives. That is what it is about for me," added Lucas.

Lucas plans on becoming a chaplain in the future, which will require further education.

"I still want to work in this ministry," added Lucas.

According to Lucas, she likes adventure and change and she is not afraid of either.

"It is the transforming power if the spirit that keeps us moving," said Lucas.

She says she would also like to see all nationalities of pastors

come together for fellowship, because all of our lives need to be transformed.

Lucas also would like to go into missionary work but is waiting for the Lord to send her on a specific path.

"There are so many areas of ministry. I am just listening for the Lord to tell me which way to go," added Lucas.

"Pastoring is not easy but workable. I believe it is the grace of God that gives us the ability to do what we do," said Lucas.

Lucas has two sons and three grandchildren.

Wynn wins award for innovation and excellence

AULANDER - Curtis Wynn, CEO of Roanoke Electric Cooperative based in Aulander, has won a national award for innovation and excellence in communication. Wynn received the 2017 J.C. Brown CEO Communication Leadership Award through the electric cooperative industry's Spotlight on Excellence Awards program.

Jim Matheson, CEO of National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), presented the honor to Wynn during a CEO leadership conference in Fort Lauderdale.

"Leading an electric cooperative requires commitment to reaching out to all the mem-

bers, meeting them where they are and urging them to become engaged," said Matheson to the audience of co-op leaders. "Curtis Wynn is a leader and innovator committed to improving the lives of the people he serves. I applaud Curtis for his contributions to his co-op, to our industry and the larger community - in North Carolina and internationally."

Under Wynn's leadership, Roanoke Electric has embraced new technologies to enhance communication and reach more members, while at the same time, leading innovative projects to advance economic development and local

opportunity.

"While my name is on the award, I'm quick to make it very clear upfront that if not for the grace of God himself, a supportive board of directors, and a team of dedicated and determined employees I would not be standing before you," stated Wynn. Wynn expanded Roanoke Electric's communications channels to more than 30

to include the cooperative's blog, e-newsletter, mobile app and various social media platforms. He initiated "Straight Talk" Forums - a series in the co-op's seven-county region giving Wynn the opportunity for face-to-face dialogue with his

member-owners. One judge praised Wynn for embracing "numerous platforms to reach the members and share the co-op message." Another judge noted that "this CEO is ready to engage, both with members and employees."

Knowing that broadband internet is critical to economic growth, the CEO traveled his northeastern N.C. service territory speaking with local government officials and school administrators to promote Roanoke EC's fiber project, "Roanoke Connect," a 200-mile fiber build-out enabling Roanoke EC to use more state-of-the-art technology to maintain its electrical system.

Unused fiber will be available to internet service providers to boost the availability of high-speed internet access in the region.

Like all electric cooperatives, Roanoke Electric is owned and governed by its member-owners. Helping members understand that role is an important part of Wynn's work.

"Stressing the member-owner connection is so important," wrote one of the judges. "It's the heart of what makes the co-op model work."

In recent years, Roanoke Electric Cooperative has also pioneered an on-bill financing program that enables co-op members to make

energy-efficiency upgrades to their homes at no upfront cost. Under Wynn's leadership, Roanoke Electric Cooperative was voted area's best electric company by readers of Roanoke-Chowan News Herald and was named Business of the Month (June 2016) by the Gates County Chamber of Commerce.

Wynn has served as CEO of Roanoke Electric Cooperative since 1997, and he has represented North Carolina on the NRECA board of directors since 2007. In 2016 he traveled to Bolivia with the NRECA International Foundation, which works to bring electricity to developing nations.

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