

# Denton

From A1

met her future husband.

She humorously told a friend, "God is just going to have to drop him from the sky."

Denton's boss at the college where she was working had a nephew he wanted her to meet. And the rest became history, as love stories go.

"Into my life flew, literally, on a plane - a wonderful man - Buddy Denton," she said.

After a nine-month long-distance courtship, spanning 3,000 miles, they married in Washington and moved to the small community of Askewville.

"This was before cell phones and email," she said. Friday nights became their phone "date nights," long before SKYPE was on the technology radar.

She and the Rev. R.O. "Buddy" Denton Jr., have been married for 36 years.

"It has been a joy to walk and work with him, side-by-side," she said. "I'm still in love, and still 'in-like'."

The two have ministered most of their married life at Askewville Assembly of God, for a total of 32 years. The church has a membership of around 225 parishioners.

Denton's ministry is comprised of music and lyrics as well as speaking and writing.

"It is a privilege to have served in leadership two different times here," she said. "Buddy came first as principal (of the church's school - Bethel Assembly Christian Academy) and assistant pastor to his father, the Rev. R.O. Denton Sr., from 1980 until 1992. Then in 1997, Buddy was invited to be pastor. This June will mark 20 years."

Among her ministries, Denton also has been a Sunday School teacher, a ladies Bible study teacher and (sea-



DEBORAH GRIFFIN / Bertie Ledger-Advance

Cheryl Denton has written many Christian songs during her ministry.

sonal) choir director.

"The people here are awesome," she said. "We love worshiping and serving God together with them."

Denton wears multiple hats, sometimes quite literally, when one of her efforts is ministering through solo Biblical drama.

She is an ordained minister with the Assemblies of God and preaches occasionally at Askewville Assembly of God, as well as other churches upon invitation.

"I especially enjoy speaking to ladies' groups and teaching Bible studies," she said.

She has performed drama around the state, as well as in Florida, Oregon, Texas, Washington and several countries overseas.

"Sharing about God, His Word, and the hope he offers is one of my favorite things to do," Denton said.

Over the years, the Dentons have been involved with the church's school, Bethel Assembly Christian Academy (BACA).

"When the school be-

gan in 1980, Buddy was the first principal and I was the first Learning Center supervisor/teacher," she said.

"As the school grew, my involvement diminished," she said. "We are now blessed to have a full staff."

In the past, she has been the office secretary, Chapel speaker and teacher of Bible studies, sign language and home economics.

Distance was a shaping factor in Denton's life when she married and moved away 3,000 miles away from family to Askewville, and it again became a factor when the Dentons left the United States to become missionaries.

In the fall of 1992, they left for Moscow, Russia and lived and ministered there for two years. He was a Children's Ministry teacher in a Bible College.

One of the highlights for Denton, she said, was "being a part of the college and preparing students from all across the former Soviet Union to become pastors."



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Cheryl Denton enjoys ministering through solo Biblical drama.

She also said handing out Bibles to those who never owned one before was especially moving. Bibles were so rare in Russia at the time, she heard that pages from the Bible were sometimes passed from home to home.

"I remember one elderly lady clutching the Bible we had given her to her chest with tears streaming down her cheeks, looking toward heaven and thanking God," she said.

When they left Russia, the Dentons went

to Lithuania for two years in a similar type of ministry.

The Dentons' three children were young during those four years overseas.

Now grown, they have families of their own. Again, distance is a defining factor in Cheryl Denton's life, as her children all live far away and she longs to be near them.

Chelle is the elder and she is married to Jake. They have two boys, Asher, two years old, and Zac, two months old. Chelle and Jake are missionaries in Lefler, Russia.

Cheree is married to Bryan. The couple live in Mobile, Ala.

Trey, her youngest, is a worship leader and is married to Kellyn. They have two year-old twins, Quaid and Lake-ly. They live in Johnson City, Tenn.

"Loving God is my number one priority. Next is my role as wife and mother. I adore my husband and I enjoy our journey of ministry and doing life together," she said.

"Raising our three children was the most fun job I've ever had. Now, that they are adults, I am blessed with their growing families," she added.

A composer and writer, Denton and her husband have composed over 70 Christian songs.

Music has been a way for Denton to express the effect distances have had on her life.

"Living away from family and missing them, and looking forward to when we will all be together forever, inspired the songs 'No More Goodbyes' and 'Goodbye Will Not be Forever'," she said.

Distance. Sometimes a blessing, sometimes a curse; sometimes a help, sometimes a hindrance; but always a mystery, and always a constant in Cheryl Denton's life.

# Windsor

From A1

to appoint Commissioner Cathy Wilson to the post. Commissioner Lawrence Carter Jr. offered a second, and the motion passed without objection.

The mayor congratulated Wilson on her election and wished her well.

In addition, Hoggard

said he felt it was important to go ahead and fill two of the important roles Brown had on the board.

He appointed Overton to take over as Fire Commissioner, and he asked Carter to take the role as Police Commissioner.

Commissioners asked what the mayor's plan would be for divid-

ing roles once the new commissioner was appointed.

"I think we'll see what expertise the new commissioner brings, and decide from there," he said. "The new person may bring a unique set of abilities, and we'll want to make appointments accordingly."

The board also began holding conversations

about the possibility of appointing someone to fill Brown's seat on the board.

Windsor Town Administrator Allen Castelloe said the town's ordinances say that an appointment should be done within a reasonable time. He said that ordinance likely would preclude the board's allowing it to be filled by

the next election in November.

"I think you will need to appoint someone to stay within the guidelines set by the ordinances," Castelloe said.

Board members said they had received suggestions for the post, but none were ready to move forward with the process.

Mayor Hoggard suggested board members be ready to at least discuss the post at the April meeting. He said the appointment could be made at that time if board members were ready, but he hoped they could at least be in a position to discuss it.

The board will meet on April 13.

**HOMETOWN & FAMILY FUN**

# Roxobel AG Fest

**Saturday, April 1, 2017**

Roxobel Fire Dept  
**BBQ Chicken Plate Sale • 4:00pm**  
**\$8.00 Donation**

Parade • Vendors • Games • Prizes • Food • Music  
 Ple Eating Contest • T-shirts & More  
**PARADE BEGINS AT 11:30AM**

**Roxobel Ag Fest 5K Fun Run**  
**AFTER PARADE (Expected Noon Start)**

5K Fun Run ENTRY FEE: 10 ADULTS \$5 CHILDREN

Registration begins at 10AM at Roxobel Fire Department

#RoxobelAG Festival