

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.

March 22-24

Women's Conference

WINDSOR – Women's Conference 2017 is planned for March 22-24 at Victory Temple Church of God in Christ. Services begin at 7:30 p.m. nightly. The theme is Kingdom Women United to Fight a Divided World.

Speakers include Pastor Clara Albritton of Your Day of Deliverance Church in Washington, Dr. Chris B. Cordon of Victory Temple and evangelist Ida Freeman-Owens of Victory Temple.

The church is located at 116 Country Club Rd. in Windsor.

The Pastor, the Rev. Dr. Gary Cordon, and congregation invite the public to attend.

March 23-25

Tent Crusade

WINDSOR – A tent crusade is planned March 23-25 by Freedom Fellowship of Bertie.

The services will begin at 7 p.m. nightly, and will feature Evangelist Bart Willoughby.

The tent service will be held at 205 West Granville St. in Windsor.

The Pastor, the Rev. Jason Johnson, and congregation invite the public to attend.

March 25

The 7 Ups

AHOSKIE – A program titled "The 7 Ups" of Christian Living is planned for 3 p.m. Saturday, March 25 at Calvary Missionary Baptist Church.

The Pastor, the Rev. Dr. Jerry V. Moody, and congregation invite the public to attend.

March 26

Special Program

WINDSOR – A program titled Great Women of the Bible is planned for 3:30 p.m. Sunday, March 26 at Beacon Light Baptist Church.

The church is located at 792 Grabtown Rd. in Windsor. The Pastor, the Rev. George Futrell, and congregation invite the public to attend.

Missionary Day

WINDSOR – Missionary Day will be held at 3 p.m. Sunday, March 26 at Indian Woods Missionary Baptist Church.

The guest speaker will be the Rev. Elaine White.

The Pastor, the Rev. David E. Moore Jr., and congregation invite the public to attend.

Trustee Program

COFIELD – The Trustees will have their annual program at 4 p.m. Sunday, March 26 at New Bethany Baptist Church.

The Rev. Ray Faircloth of Higher Ground Pentecostal Holiness Church in Ahoskie will be in concert.

The Pastor, the Rev. Dr. W.C. Clark, and congregation invite the public to attend.

April 1

Christian Education Conference

WINDSOR – A Christian Education Leadership Conference will be held from 10 a.m. until noon on Saturday, April 1 at Indian Woods Missionary Baptist Church.

The guest speaker will be the Rev. Joseph L. Battle of Quankey Missionary Baptist Church, who serves as moderator of the Neuse River Association.

The Pastor, the Rev. David E. Moore Jr., and congregation invite the public to attend.

April 9

Palm Sunday Mass

WINDSOR – Palm Sunday Mass will be held at 8:30 a.m. Sunday, April 9 at Holy Spirit Catholic Church.

The service, which will be held at the Windsor United Methodist Church located at 408 South Queen St. in Windsor, will include the distribution of Palms.

The Pastor, Father Mike Kerin, and congregation invite the public to attend.

April 14

Way of the Cross

WINDSOR – The long-standing tradition to celebrate the traditional Way of the Cross is planned for noon on Friday, April 14.

Participants will meet at the Bertie County Courthouse and walk toward the Cashie River, stopping at 14 reflection points along the way.

The service takes approximately 30 minutes and all are welcome.

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.

God can use anybody

2 Corinthians 4:1-18

The greatest joy in life is the thrill of being used by God for a greater purpose.

In 2 Corinthians 4:1-18, Paul gives five principles of staying usable that you can apply to your life today.

Each of us is equally important to God.

God creates all things and situations for a specific purpose. It may be hard to see the purpose of an elderly woman living day to day in a nursing home.

But, when she walks the halls of the nursing home singing Christian hymns from her childhood, the smiles on the faces of other residents clearly show God's purpose.

In Romans 6:13 "Give yourself completely to God...to be used for his rightful purpose."

If Jesus Christ is your Lord and Savior you are qualified. God is in the renewal business.

All things work for the common good under God.

The Apostle Paul was murdering Christians before he was called to serve Jesus.

Paul could have certainly considered himself unqualified, or, disqualified. His five principles enabled him to be used by God for a greater purpose.

Principle One: Never forget it is all because of God's mercy. Not a one of us is qualified on our own merit.

Not a one of us deserves to be used by God. God's mercy is undeserved forgiveness and kindness. It is not about me. We are never qualified, but by God's mercy.

Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 4:1 "Through God's mercy we have this ministry."

It is all about Jesus.

"This is the day the Lord has made."

- PSALM 118:24



REV. RANDALL WOODARD

Your ministry is using your talents to help somebody else. Driving, singing, accounting, leading, supporting, caring, whatever your God given talents, this is your ministry. Grace is getting something you don't deserve.

Mercy is not getting something you do deserve.

Paul assures us that God never gives up on us. Your purpose is to share your talents by helping somebody else.

In Galatians 1:14-15 "You know what I was...but it pleased God to choose me."

Principle Two: 2 Corinthians 4:2 "Rather we have renounced secret and shameful ways..."

So many people today are trying to be like someone else.

They are trying to be who they are not. Be who God created and purposed you to be.

Practice what you see is what you get.

There will always be someone prettier, more talented, more popular, more charismatic. God knows every intricate detail of your life.

It is by God's grace we try to improve and by his mercy we are forgiven.

The Lord loves you just as you are.

Principle Three: Remember it is not about me. When you get too prideful, it begins to create problems.

In 2 Corinthians 4:5 "our message is not about ourselves, but Jesus Christ."

Anything you are able to do is because of God's mercy.

We are just servants for Jesus' sake. Be faithful every day. Work just as hard to help one person as you do when helping many.

Principle Four: Use your pain to help others.

In 2 Corinthians 4:6 "let your light shine out of darkness..." Paul was convicted, consistent, and committed to this principle.

He had been shipwrecked, snake bit, beaten, and imprisoned.

Paul used his pain to help others.

True healing is a full circle from feeling the pain to using your pain to help others.

Principle Five: Stay focused on eternity. This is the blessed hope of all Christians. We see tragedy in the news, in the hospitals, and in families on a daily basis.

The Christian life is a marathon not a 100-yard dash.

Use your pain to lay up treasures in heaven by helping someone who is suffering.

In 2 Corinthians 4:17-18 "For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all."

So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal."

God wants to use every Christian. Apply Paul's five principles this week to help others.

Randall Woodard is the pastor of First Baptist Church in Robersonville. He may be reached at randallwoodard69@yahoo.com.

They will treat you like they treated me

If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord.

If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.

John 15:18-20 (KJV)

Following Jesus, being a disciple of the teachings of Jesus, comes with strong reactions and oppositions from the cultures and societies in which we live.

Jesus Christ is the best thing that has ever happened to everyone that accepts Him as Lord and Savior. You would think that making this decision would come with applause and great celebration.

Because whenever a person experiences the love of God in Christ Jesus by faith, repenting of sins and turning to a life of obedience to the Word as directed by the indwelling Spirit, eternal life is the result. You would think that everyone would celebrate.

However, Jesus stops our celebration with a strong real-

"This is the day the Lord has made."

- PSALM 118:24



THE REV. DR. GARY CORDON

ity check. He issues a gripping warning to His disciples and to everyone who would become a disciple.

He tells them (and us) that He is hated by those disapproving of His performing miracles of love and speaking Words to restore men back to a righteous relationship with God.

He is demonstrating love and they are reacting with hate! They would eventually crucify Him on a cross.

"And they will hate me and do this to me," Jesus says, "and they will do the same to you!" But I want you to be encouraged by the power of His promise in verse 20....

When we submit to Him as Lord, we should expect to be persecuted because He was persecuted. But we can also expect them to keep and remember our words just as they have kept His words.

Jesus says, "If they have per-

secuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also."

They will treat you like dirt, but keep your words like gold! Now you know that you are doing what He wants you to do because the same thing is happening to you that happened to Him! Don't just be a convert. Grow into discipleship. Walk the walk of Jesus. Speak the words of Jesus.

Allow the Holy Spirit to speak through you knowing that their immediate reaction to you is not the lasting result.

You will be opposed in school, on your job and through government, but remember that they treated Jesus the same way.

Selah...

Remember that God loves you so much that He gave His Son Jesus to die in our places for our sins.

Accept His love by asking Jesus Christ to live in your heart through faith in His Word. Allow Him to be your LORD and Savior today.

The Rev. Dr. Gary Cordon is Pastor of Victory Temple Church of God in Christ of Windsor. He can be reached via email at pastor@vtcogic.org or through his website at www.PastorCordon.org.

Holy Week services slated

WINDSOR – Holy Week Services will be held April 13-15 at Holy Spirit Catholic Church.

On Thursday, April 13 the Holy Thursday

Mass with foot washing will be held at 5:30 p.m. On April 14, Good Friday, Recalling Jesus' Death will be held at 5:30 p.m.

On Saturday evening, an Easter Vigil Mass is planned for 8:30 p.m. All services will be held at Windsor United Methodist Church, which is

located at 408 South Queen St. in Windsor. The Pastor, Father Mike Kerin, and congregation invite the public to attend.



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