

Faith

The fabric of Bertie County since 1832

Resisting the seduction of Sin

Proverbs chapter 7 tells of a young man who is lacking wisdom and good sense. Up to no good, he ventures out under the cloak of darkness. Looking for something, he goes down the road to her house – the house that leads to death. In his mind, he's got a song playing.

Maybe it's the Black Eyed Peas song, "I've got a feeling... tonight's gonna be a good, good night." However, from Solomon's perspective, the tune goes more like the theme song from Jaws, "duunnn dunnn... duuuunn duun..." This guy has no idea of the danger lurking in the waters in which he's wading. He's about to be seduced. He's being led to his demise by his own desires.

The seductress steps out to meet him. She seizes and kisses him. She invites him to delight in her love until morning. With the smell of sweet perfume and with smooth words, she compels him to stay. All at once he follows her. He throws wisdom to the wind and steps into the house of death.

Like an ox going to slaughter, like a deer caught and pierced in the liver, like a bird trapped in a snare, this young man does not know that it will cost him his life.

"This is the day the Lord has made."

- PSALM 118:24



THE REV. CHARLIE LANIER

He's taken the bait. He's selling his soul.

Sin seduces. The sin may not be adultery. Just like you use different bait to catch different fish, she knows your number. The bottle doesn't call out everybody. Not everyone is tempted by the love of money.

This seductress sets the trap, tailored to your weakness, and lies in wait for you to take the bait and kill your soul. Sin leads to death. Heed the warnings. Don't fall for the lies.

Don't be led by your own sinful desires.

With this picture of seduction in mind, how can we overcome her musings and resist her calling? King Solomon offers his child a choice in life between two women. One represents God and his wisdom. The other is an alternative to God – sin.

"Say to wisdom, 'You are my

sister, and call insight your intimate friend, to keep you from the forbidden woman, from the adulteress with her smooth words.'" (Proverbs 7:4)

The only way to escape the seduction of sin is to fall in love with a more beautiful woman. As we love our spouses, as we grow deeper in love, as the fire is flamed, there is no room in the relationship for a mistress or a harlot.

As we're seeking the Lord, the thought of going down to the house of death is hideous and vile. However, temptation becomes the strongest when the relationship has cooled. The mistress becomes seductive when the heart is not satisfied.

The seductress offers the young man heaven on earth. Yet, it's the love of God that is the true longing of our souls. Knowing God and being filled with His love drives out the cravings for sin and satisfies the true yearning of our souls. Only God's love calls out louder than anything this world has to offer.

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

Snoring and wrinkles!

As I write today I'm sitting in my recliner with my laptop open listening to the sounds of Luvi as she snores beautifully in a rhythm that doesn't miss a single beat.

Luvi? Who is Luvi? Okay... here's the story – After losing Ranger (our Jack Russell Rat Terrier mix) we had talked about the acquisition of another dog around Christmas last year.

The conclusion was that we really didn't need a dog. There would be too much time to train, clean, and provide care when we were away right? Well, that IS what we said.

However, as 2017 came in and the days began to pass one by one, it wasn't long before Valentine's Day was staring us right in the face. I had the bright idea to seek out my wife's long-time love, a Shar Pei. Shar Peis are Chinese dogs with lots of wrinkles. So I began my search and discovered a N.C. breeder who had a litter of pups arriving January 17th.

I made my purchase online after they were born and asked the breeder to send me a nice pic that was the most recent. I made my way to Walgreens, fashioned

"Be still and know that I am God."

- PSALM 46:10



PASTOR WALLACE PHILLIPS

a nice card in the photo department that had Luvi coming out of a mailbox. On the back side of the card was the message, "I was born on January 17th! I'm your Valentine's Day gift. You have to come and pick me up and I need a name!"

Joy was a little shocked, but seemed quite happy. No chocolates! No flowers! Just a beautiful little wrinkly Shar Pei who would soon be named "Luvi." She's the "never miss a beat snorer!"

Isn't it amazing that snoring is beautiful when it's coming from your puppy rather than your spouse? And isn't it amazing that the thing that makes this dog so stinkin' cute is wrinkles? We don't want a snoring spouse and we don't want wrinkles, but those two trademarks on this classic canine make us

smile every day.

It reminds me of the reality that we are indeed blessed with so many blessings every day that come from life's simplicity. Paul reminded the Ephesians in Chapter 1, verse 3..."Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places." We have so many spiritual blessings like peace, joy, comfort, and assurance just to name a few. And...we have so many other blessings that may not be spiritual...like snoring and wrinkles, even if they come from our spouse. If we snore it means we still sleep and if we have wrinkles, it means we are still alive and aging.

Thanks Luvi for your little snores and your many wrinkles that remind us life is filled with blessings! Have a great week and enjoy your life.

Dr. Wallace Phillips is Sr. Pastor at Carpenter's Shop International Church in Ahoskie. Join them for worship this Sunday at 10 a.m. at 903 South CC Road in Ahoskie, or join them on the web at csicministries.com for a livestream even!

The carrying of the cross slated

WINDSOR – A long-standing tradition will continue at noon on Friday, April 14.

The traditional Way of the Cross will begin at the Bertie County Courthouse and pause for 14 reflections as the walk progresses.

Participants will take turns carrying the cross as they remember what Jesus experienced on

Good Friday including his scourging, being crowned with thorns, carrying the cross and crucifixion.

"The day is called 'good' because of Jesus' love for us, and His willingness to sacrifice His life for the salvation of the world," said Father Mike Kerin of Holy Spirit Catholic Church. The progression will

move from the courthouse down the sidewalk toward the Cashie River. It will continue across the river, and conclude at the gazebo. The service takes approximately 30 minutes.

The Way of the Cross is sponsored by Windsor United Methodist Church, St. Thomas' Episcopal Church and

Holy Spirit Catholic Church. For more information, call 252-794-5086.

In addition, there is a second service on Good Friday, sponsored by Ross Baptist Church. The "Carrying of the Cross" begins at 4 p.m. at Martin Community College and progresses to Livermon Park and Mini Zoo.

THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE



Detail of woodcut by Eric Gill (1914)

...They led him away to crucify him. As they were going out, they met a man from Cyrene, named Simon, and they forced him to carry the cross.

Matthew 27: 31,32

BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Gethsemane in the Old or New Testament or neither?
 2. What's the only book of the Bible (KJV) that mentions Christ's tomb being sealed? *Matthew, Mark, Luke, John*
 3. Who rolled away the stone from the mouth of Jesus' tomb? *Simon, An angel, Villagers, Disciples*
 4. Jesus ate fish and what else first after the resurrection? *Figs, Berries, Honeycomb, Manna*
 5. Which disciple doubted Jesus had risen unless he could see the wounds? *Peter, Andrew, Thomas, Thaddeus*
 6. From Acts 1, how long did Jesus remain before He ascended into heaven? *3 hours, 1 day, 7 days, 40 days*
- ANSWERS: 1) Neither; 2) Matthew; 3) An angel; 4) Honeycomb; 5) Thomas; 6) 40 days
- Comments? More Trivia? Visit www.TriviaGuy.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 twwhite@ncweeklies.com.

April 5-6

Spring Youth Revival

WINDSOR – Spring Youth Revival will be held April 5-6 at Peterson Grove Missionary Baptist Church.

Services begin nightly at 7:30 p.m.

The guest speakers will be Jacob Frett (Wednesday) and Emerson Watford (Thursday). Music will be rendered by the KFC Singers, Blessed Choir and Deacon Edwards Brown Sr. Kwali Watson and Eric Moore will serve as Masters of Ceremonies.

The congregation invites the public to attend.

April 8

Gospel Music

LEWISTON WOODVILLE – A Gospel Music Program is planned for 6 p.m. Saturday, April 8 at Power House International Church Ministries.

Performers include Montez Williams, McArthur Smith, Forrest Bradley and the Gospel Impressions.

The event is free. The church is located at 134 South Main St. in Lewiston Woodville. The Pastor, Patrick Walton Sr., and congregation invite the public to attend.

Easter Egg Hunt

WINDSOR – An Easter Egg Hunt is planned for 10 a.m. Saturday, April 8 at Ross Baptist Church.

The event will include crafts, games, treat bags and the story of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. A hot dog lunch is planned.

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

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.

Youth Day

AULANDER – Youth Day will be observed at 11 a.m. Sunday, April 9 at Conocanary Missionary Baptist Church.

Minister Corey Williams of Chapel Grove Missionary Baptist Church in Garysburg will be the guest minister. The Youth Choir, led by Dale Bell, will render music.

Silent Praise, the Conocanary Mimes, will also participate in the service. The youth will also perform a trailer of their upcoming play, "I don't believe," directed by Rita Perry.

The church is located at 1425 Hexlena Rd. in Aulander. The Pastor, the Rev. W. Rob Lewis II, and congregation invite the public to attend.

Palm Sunday

WINDSOR – A Palm Sunday Service will be held at 11 a.m. Sunday, April 9 at Ross Baptist Church.

The day will also feature a bake sale to support the youth of the church attending Tarheel Challenge Academy.

The church is located at 1020 Bull Hill Rd. in Windsor. The Pastor, the Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Russell, and congregation invite the public to attend.

Pastoral Anniversary

WINDSOR – The first Pastoral Anniversary of John W. Felton will be observed at 3 p.m. Sunday, April 9 at Zion Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church.

Bishop Thomas E. Lee, Pastor of Greater Wynns Grove in Colerain, will deliver the message. His choir, ushers and congregation will accompany him.

Lunch will be served at 2 p.m. in the Lucy Dameron Fellowship Hall at the church.

The church is located at 403 Ghent St. in Windsor. The congregation invites the public to attend.

Easter Drama

WINDSOR – The Easter Musical Drama "His Redemption, My Story" is planned for 6 p.m. Sunday, April 9 at Windsor Assembly of God.

The church is located at 1505 South King St. in Windsor. The Pastor, the Rev. Chuck Gray, and congregation invite the public to attend.

April 11-14

Youth Revival

MERRY HILL – Youth Revival Services will be held April 11-14 at Peterson Chapel Church. Services begin nightly at 8 p.m. The guest speaker will be the Rev. Melvin Cotton Jr. of New Genesis Baptist Church in Virginia Beach, Va.

The church is located at 514 Avoca Farm Rd. in Merry Hill.

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