

Faith

The fabric of Bertie County since 1832

Joy to the world

Joy. A commodity that all seek. Happiness.

Billions of dollars are spent each year to obtain it. However, joy and happiness are matters of perspective. What brings joy to one person is worthless to another. A donkey and cart satisfies the Bedouin of the middle east. A milk cow pleases the farmer and his family in villages of remote lands of Central Asia. The latest technology is sought in most of the western world. Donkeys and cows are irrelevant for businessmen in high rise offices. The iPhone, iPad and iPod are worthless to natives in jungles. Things that bring joy to some, bring discontent to others.

Furthermore, basing joy and happiness on things is only temporary. They get old. Here today, gone tomorrow. Joy to the world is not possible in things.

Some seek joy in experiences. A dream vacation. A trip to a foreign land. A climbing expedition in remote mountains of the world. A cruise to a beautiful island. A hunting trip for big game. A safari on famous reserves.

One person's joy, however, is

another's nightmare. The thrill of seeing lions, elephants, and hippos in the wild would be terror for some. Yet these too, only bring temporary joy. Only pictures and memories remain.



THE REV. R.O. DENTON, JR.
Be Still

However they, too, fade with time. Joy to the world is not found in experiences.

I recently watched the Alabama vs. Auburn football game with a devout Auburn fan. He was extremely joyful at the outcome. However, he had friends "crying the blues." Joy for one was not so joyous to another. There was no "joy to the world."

Joy and happiness are also sought in relationships. Everyone needs fellowship. It is a basic of life. Unfortunately, these can be short-lived and terminal. Co-workers, neighbors, and even families are often separated by disagreements or hurtful actions.

Joy and happiness that once

filled the heart, are suddenly replaced with frustration, pain, or anger. What once promised to be lasting is gone. New joy is often sought in another relationship. Joy to the world cannot be found in people.

Things, experiences, and people are essentials in life. They can bring temporary joy and happiness, but not to the world. They are individual and localized. There is only One who brings JOY to the WORLD.

At His birth, an angel declared to the shepherds, "I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people." (Luke 2:10b)

Not to some, but for all people. This Christmas season, as we try to bring happiness to those around us, may we receive and give the greatest gift who is for all people, who will make all happy, who will satisfy all - Jesus Christ.

Joy to the World and Merry Christmas!

The Rev. R.O. "Buddy" Denton Jr. is Pastor of Askewville Assembly of God Church. He can be reached via email at rodenton@coastalnet.com.

A mile a minute...

I'm just now walking into my home at the end of a work day, well...the end as far as tasks performed away from home. I left this morning and made the trek to the big state of Virginia, as I had a visit to make to one of our church family. He is in a facility roughly 75 miles away.

So that's about an hour and 15 or 20 minutes away right, considering some of my miles are on the open 70 mph highway allowances both in North Carolina and Virginia?

Not so this time of year! It seems that the traffic was congested the entire journey and once I actually got into the Tidewater region, oh my goodness.... it was horrendous.

It made me start to be thankful for the pace of the region in which we live. While you may not be a stone's throw away from a unique dining experience like a "Zoe's Kitchen," (where I had lunch) or whatever your favorite spot is that appeals to your tastes, you are extremely

blessed to be able to count on about "a mile a minute" for your journey.

In fact, as I pondered the purpose for my visit, I was there to see a precious Brother who is in physical rehab that used to live in the heart of the military-based region of Tidewater. He moved to Ahoskie a few years ago and found Carpenter's Shop Church to be his new ministry home.

When I asked "What brings you to Ahoskie from the Tidewater area," he responded..."We wanted to get away from traffic!"

Oh...now I understand. You want to come to our little hamlet where your journey on the road is "a mile a minute!" I laugh when I think about it.

No matter where you live,

you think you're in the wrong place. You know...if your hair's curly, you want it straight. If you're hair's straight, you want a perm.

Seems like we are a hard people to please. Paul reminds us, "I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances," Philippians 4:11.

Paul is speaking specifically about his having a plenty or being in want, but he calls upon us for contentment.

Bumper to bumper or a mile a minute, be content that at least you're here to enjoy the journey. Have a great week and visit us at Carpenter's Shop International Church; 903 South Catherine Creek Road in Ahoskie!

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 live stream event.



PASTOR WALLACE PHILLIPS
This is the day

Christmas celebrations

WINDSOR - Christmas celebrations are planned for Sunday, Dec. 24 at Holy Spirit Catholic Church.

The events will be

gin with the singing of Christmas Carols at 8:15 p.m. followed by Mass at 9 p.m.

Refreshments will follow.

The events will take place at Windsor United Methodist Church, 408 South Queen St. in Windsor.

For more information,

call 252-794-5086.

The Pastor, Father Aaron Wessman, and congregation invite the public to attend.

Send all church news to Thadd White at twhite@ncweeklies.com

Press Release

Choanoke Area Development Association of NC, Inc. (CADA) has designated November 20th - December 14th, 2017 for district election meetings. The purpose of these meetings is to elect two (2) electors from each community within an established district. These selected electors will meet within their respective district to elect one (1) district representative to CADA's Board of Directors. A board member does not have to be a low-income person but must be selected by the low income-residents of a CADA district as their representative.

Residents must be 18 years of age or older to be eligible to nominate an elector and to vote. CADA employees are not eligible to nominate candidates or to vote in the election. All low-income persons are encouraged to participate in the election process. Polling locations, dates and times for voting are as follows:

District	Bertie County	Date	Time
10 -	Bertie Co. Chamber of Commerce - 121 East Granville St., Windsor NC	12/14/2017	10:00am - 11:00am
10 -	CADA / NCWorks Building - 128 East Granville St., Windsor NC	12/14/2017	4:00pm - 5:00pm
9 -	Chavis Adult Day Health Center - 105 Commerce St., Powellsville, NC	12/14/2017	2:00pm - 3:00pm
9 -	West Bertie Headstart - 3734-B Governors Rd., Kelford, NC	12/14/2017	3:30pm - 4:30pm
9 -	Aulander, Community Building - 130 Commerce St. Aulander, NC	12/14/2017	4:00pm - 5:00pm

For more information please contact: Sallie Surface at 252.539.4155

HOLIDAY LOANS

AVAILABLE NOW.

\$1,000 TO \$3,000!

Come and visit our friendly staff today... or you may also apply online @ www.nfcmoney.com

National Finance Company

701 E. Boulevard, Suite I
Williamston, NC 27892
252-792-6111

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.

Dec. 15

Revival

WINDSOR - A One Night Revival is planned for 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 15 at Tabernacle Pillar of Fire Ministry.

The theme is "It was God that brought us out!"

The guest speaker will be Bishop Robin B. Atwater of Helping Hand Church in Rocky Mount.

The church is located on U.S. 13/17 in Windsor.

The congregation invites the public to attend.

Dec. 16

Evening Prayer

ROXBEL - Evening Prayer will be observed at 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 16 at St. Mark's Episcopal Church.

Light refreshments will be served following the service.

The church is located at 206 West Church St. in Roxobel.

The Rev. Canon Sonny Browne and congregation invite the public to attend.

An Evening of Christmas Music

POWELLSVILLE - An Evening of Christmas Music is planned for 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 16 at Piney Wood Chapel Baptist Church. The event will feature church and community members providing Christmas music.

The Pastor, the Rev. Dr. Gregory K. Ellis, and congregation invite the public to attend.

Dec. 17

Christmas Program

WINDSOR - The Christmas Program "Remembering Christmas" is slated for 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 17 at Windsor Assembly of God.

A Christmas party and refreshments will follow in the church fellowship hall. The church is located at 1505 South King St. in Windsor.

The Pastor, the Rev. Chuck Gray, and congregation invite the public to attend.

Christmas Cantata

WINDSOR - The combined choir programs of adults, youth and children will present the Christmas cantata "Come, Let us Adore" at 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 17 at Ross Baptist Church.

The cantata was written by Russell Mauldin and will be directed by Gail Hoggard Smith.

Refreshments will be served following the program.

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 invite the public to attend.

Youth Christmas Program

AHOSKIE - The Youth Ministry will present a Christmas Program at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 17 at New Ahoskie Baptist Church.

The program will feature Myrtle Clark and her piano students in recital, a birthday party for Pastor C. David Stackhouse and a visit from Santa.

Pastor Stackhouse and the congregation invite the public to attend.

Christmas Program

WINTON - The Youth Ministry will present a Christmas program at 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 17 at Jordan Grove Missionary Baptist Church. Refreshments will be served.

The Pastor, the Rev. Dr. James W. Shearn, and congregation invite the public to attend.

Dec. 24

Evening Prayer

ROXBEL - A Christmas Eve service is planned for 11 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 24 at St. Mark's Episcopal Church.

Light refreshments will be served following the service.

The church is located at 206 West Church St. in Roxobel.

The Rev. Canon Sonny Browne and congregation invite the public to attend.

Dec. 31

Pastoral Anniversary

COLERAIN - Peterson Chapel Missionary Baptist Church will celebrate the 15th Pastoral Anniversary of the Rev. Percell Whitaker with a banquet on Friday, Feb. 9.

The deadline for registration to attend the event - which is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. - is Sunday, Dec. 31. The event will take place at the Dr. Thomas E. Lee Enrichment Center at 221 Wynns Grove Church Rd. in Colerain. The keynote speaker will be the Rev. Kennedy Barber and The Four Stars of Ahoskie will provide music.

There is no charge for the event, but all seats will be reserved. For a reservation, call Andrew Watson (252-435-7250), Willis Heckstall (252-209-7254) or Ethel Copeland (252-312-8905).

Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays

There is no time more fitting to express our thanks and to wish you a MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

David Bowen & Staff

BOWEN HEATING, AIR & REFRIGERATION

1120 Tyner Road • Williamston, NC
Tel. (252) 809-0226

BOOM TRUCK SERVICES AVAILABLE