

Faith

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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.

Jan. 12

Memorial Service

WINDSOR – A memorial service for Helen Dumas will be held at 6 p.m. Friday, Jan. 12.

The memorial service and mass will be conducted by Holy Spirit Catholic Church at Windsor United Methodist Church. The church is located at 408 South Queen St.

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

Jan. 13

Evening Prayer

ROXOBEL – Evening Prayer will be observed at 5 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 13 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.

Jan. 14

Deacon Ordination Service

WINDSOR – A Deacon Ordination Service is planned for 3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 14 at Cedar Landing Missionary Baptist Church.

The deacons to be ordained are Roy Hamilton and Emerson Watford.

The guest speaker will be the Rev. Dr. John Taylor Sr. of New Hope Missionary Baptist Church in Gates. Music will be provided by the Zion Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church Choir.

The church is located at 146 Cedar Landing Rd. in Windsor.

The Pastor, the Rev. Shelton R. Barnes, and congregation invite the public to attend.

Jan. 21

Gospel Concert

WILLIAMSTON – Second Edition will be in gospel concert at 6 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 21 at West End Baptist Church.

There will be no admission charge, but an offering will be taken.

The church is located at 1505 West Main St. in Williamston.

The congregation invites the public to attend.

Ongoing

Women's Ministry

WINDSOR – The Women's Ministry meets from 6-8 p.m. on the second Friday of each month at Cedar Landing Missionary Baptist Church.

The meetings include fun activities, free food, door prizes and lots of love.

The congregation invites the public to attend.

Battleground for Success

WINTON – Pastor Keith Urquhart will host a Facebook broadcast from 7-7:30 p.m. each Wednesday.

The educational presentation "Battleground for Success" will be for school-aged students, parents and business-minded people.

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.

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She was driving to the Outer Banks from Bertie County, to the Aquarium in Manteo, with six children and one other adult. An hour later, I got a call for directions. She realized she had missed a turn when the Virginia state line appeared.

He wandered through the woods. Where is the truck? Where is the path? Somehow, he missed the markers that led back to the truck. Something caught her attention. She walked away from her parents. It was crowded. It was noisy. It was busy. Disney World is all this and more. The parents panicked. The child, was oblivious to the dangers.

Most of us have a story of being lost. Some, because of missed turns. Others, from not paying attention. Panic sets in. Frustration. Aggravation. Perhaps, anger. A determined effort begins to find the way back. On the other hand, there are those, like the child, who are lost but don't even realize it. This is the most dangerous. Lost at sea. Lost in the woods. Lost on the road. Lost in a crowd.

Fortunately, being lost attracts attention from friends, family, and authorities. Intense searches are made to find the lost. When found, there is much joy. Celebration. Congratulations. The news reports the recovery. Peace and rest are restored. We recently celebrated the coming of Christ to earth as a babe. His purpose for coming?



REV. R.O. DENTON
Be Still

"For the Son of Man (Jesus) has come to seek and save that which was lost," (Luke 19:10). The lost are those who haven't followed Him.

Those who are not obeying Him. Those who do what is right in their own eyes rather than His. The lost are those who choose to listen to men's ideas rather than God's. Jesus illustrates His search for the lost in three parables recorded in Luke 15. He tells of a lost coin, a lost sheep, and

a lost son. In each, there was a frantic search. (The lost son story implies the Father looked out each day, waiting for his son to return.) When the lost was found, there was a party. Rejoicing. This illustrates the searching Jesus for those who are lost.

Jesus, on another occasion, spoke of two roads: a wide road with many people on it, and a narrow road with few. The wide road leads to destruction (lost people). The narrow road leads to eternal life (found people).

What road are you traveling? Do you know where you are going? As we begin a new year, each of us has another opportunity to choose the right path. You determine your own destiny. Follow Christ and know where you are and where you are going (heaven), or follow your own path that will lead to destruction.

It's your choice. Lost or found. Don't choose to be lost.

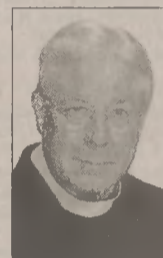
The Rev. R.O. "Buddy" Denton Jr. is Pastor of Askewville Assembly of God Church. He can be reached via email at rodenton@coastalnet.com.

Losing your wall to the will of God...

The life and ministry (and death) of Thomas Becket serves as one of the Christendom's greatest of role models. While his earlier years were not so exemplary of the Christian life, at a crucial point a deep, self-examination brought about a most significant conversion comparable to that of the Apostle Paul on the road to Damascus.

Born into a family of wealth and privilege, Becket began his adult life as a banker to Theobald of Bec (Archbishop of Canterbury). It was the archbishop who recommended him to Henry II, and, so wonderfully did he perform his duties, when Theobald passed away, the King appointed Becket the new Archbishop of Canterbury. No one ever doubted that the king's intention was to have in that high and respected office a lackey who would kowtow to Henry's every wish. Surprisingly, the appointment resulted in Becket taking his ministry gravely and viewing the teachings of Christ to be more important than Henry's licentious behavior. He openly preached against the king, rebuffing the requests for favoritism.

In the play, Murder In the Cathedral, Becket orates on Christmas Day of 1170 the words of Christ, "My peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you." The next day would be the celebration of Christianity's first martyr, St. Stephen. He preaches, "Saints are not made by accident. Worldly



PASTOR JOHNNY A. PHILLIPS
This is the day

"What sluggards, what cowards have I brought into my court, who care nothing for their allegiance to their lord? Who will rid me of this meddlesome priest?"

Hearing this rant, four knights accept it as the king's open desire to do away with Thomas Becket and they find him, at the Cathedral's altar no less and there assassinate him on Dec. 29, 1170. When issues of conflict between authority and personal faith arise, the Bible can become rather uncertain. On one hand Paul wrote, "Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established.... whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted..."

But Luke penned these words: "Peter and John answered, 'Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than God, you must be the judge, for we cannot but speak of what we

have seen and heard."

I do not have the scholarship nor the wisdom to fathom a clear solution to this dilemma; however, there are two lessons easily gleaned from Becket's stance of faith: One, his willingness to disagree lovingly even with those he loved. As Albus Dumbledore in the Harry Potter series says, "There are all kinds of courage. It takes a great deal of bravery to stand up to our enemies, but a great deal more to stand up to our friends." Secondly, from time to time in my ministry I have witnessed people to simply determine to change their less-than-desirable behavior into role models of spirituality.

An overly dedicated businessman who had not attended church in years became a lay leader; an individual who had been a pew warmer for generations simply dropped into his pastor's office one day and asked to perform some volunteer job; a father of five who had squandered the family's livelihood on alcohol for years loaded them up in his pickup truck and drove to the parsonage to tell the old country preacher, When Becket became the archbishop, a sense of responsibility was awakened in him — a sense of spiritual self-determination that the modern world rarely acknowledges.

Johnny A. Phillips is a retired minister residing in Morganton and may be contacted at phillips_sue@bellsouth.net.

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