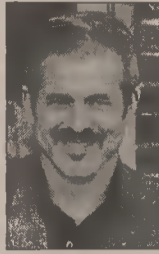


Good Friday - Bad Friday

The scene was set. This man Jesus was about to be put to death. On that fateful morning He stood before the Governor - Pontius Pilate. "When morning came, all the chief priests and elders of the people plotted against Jesus to put Him to death. And when they had bound Him, they led Him to Pontius Pilate the governor. Matthew 27:1-2. "Then he released Barabbas to them; and when he had scourged Jesus; he delivered Him to be crucified. Matthew 27:26. The scourging was terrible. They tied Jesus to a post, stripped him of His clothing and beat Him with what is referred to as the cat-o'-nine tails. Several strands of leather with maybe sharp pieces of bone or lead were affixed to the end of it, to cut into the flesh, exposing an open wound. Beaten, mocked, spat upon and ridiculed, hardly able to

recognize Him, they put a robe on Him. They put a crown of thorns on His head. After mocking Him they snatched the robe off Him opening the wounds on His back again. "And when they had mocked Him, they took the robe off Him, put His own clothes on Him, and led Him away to be crucified. Matthew 27:31. Staggering to a place where He would be crucified in so much pain. Getting ready to lay down His life looking up and perhaps making eye contact with people that just a few days earlier where praising Him saying, "Hosanna, Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord" and now are saying crucify Him!!!! With love and compassion He

looks at them. With nails in his hands and in His feet, hanging with so much pain, his back lacerated and pushing up with His feet just to get a breath scraping His back open again and again. "And when they had come to a place called Golgotha, that is to say, Place of a Skull, they gave Him sour wine mingled with gall to drink, But when He had tasted it, He would not drink. Then they crucified Him...." Matthew 27:33-35a He says Father forgive them.... Without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin. Jesus became our ultimate sacrifice. Jesus loves us so much He paid the price for our sins. Thank God for "Good Friday," Bad Friday for Jesus - Good Friday for us. Good Friday - Bad Friday. *The Rev. Jason Johnson is Pastor of Freedom Fellowship of Bertie. He can be reached via email at preachthecrossjj@gmail.com.*



THE REV. JASON JOHNSON
Be Still



THE REV. CHARLIE LANIER
This is the day

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...duuuunnn 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. 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 inti-

mate 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.*

Bible Trivia

BY WILSON CASEY

1. Is the book of Psalms in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. From Song of Solomon 1:15, what kind of eyes does the beloved say the Shulamite has? Kind, Red of the demon, Doves, Blue of the sea
3. Used as both a greeting and farewell, what's the Hebrew word for "peace"? Shass, Sim-

cha, Shabbat, Shalom
4. In Matthew 6, what did Jesus say not to use when we pray? Loud curses, Impure thoughts, Vain repetitions, Wandering shifts
5. As found in Esther 1, King Ahasuerus lived in what city? Ur, Shushan, Antioch, Tarsus
ANSWERS: 1) Old; 2) Doves; 3) Shalom; 4) Vain repetitions; 5) Shushan,

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.

Holy Week Revival

ROXBEL - Holy Week Revival Services are under way at Sandy Branch Missionary Baptist Church. Services begin at 7 p.m. nightly and will be held tonight and Thursday.

Tonight, the Rev. Darren Whitehurst of First Baptist Church of Kelford will speak. He will be joined by his congregation. Thursday, the Rev. Darryl Edwards of Beautiful Zion Baptist Church of Lewiston Woodville will speak. He will also be accompanied by his congregation. Holy Communion will be observed.

Interim Pastor, the Rev. W. Rob Lewis II, and congregation invite the public to attend.

March 29

International Speaker

WINDSOR - International Speaker, Pastor and Author Dr. Sherlock Bally will speak at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 29 at Cedar Landing Missionary Baptist Church.

HE will provide insight on the current Israeli-Palestinian conflict in the context of Biblical prophesy and history.

HE will be accompanied by Eathanan Glazer of Israel. The Pastor, the Rev. Shelton Barnes, and congregation invite the public to attend.

March 30

Carry the Cross

WINDSOR - The fifth annual interdenominational Carry the Cross presentation is planned for 4 p.m. on Good Friday, March 30.

The event will begin at the Bertie County Courthouse parking area and proceed down King Street to Granville Street and then to the town of Windsor Utility Building.

The Rev. Zach Hicks of Askewville Baptist Church will deliver a short message and Richard Simmons will provide music.

For more information, contact Chris Surgeon (252-325-0049) or Dr. Jeff Russell (252-340-3272).

Stations of the Cross

WINDSOR - The Stations of the Cross will be observed through the town of Windsor at noon on Friday, March 30.

The event will begin at the corner of King and Dundee streets in Windsor and will proceed down King Street to the gazebo on the Cashie River.

For more information, contact the Rev. Joan Fischer at jfischer@nccumc.org or Father Aaron Wessman at aaronwessman@hotmail.com.

March 31

Easter Candlelight Service

WINDSOR - Holy Spirit Catholic Church will host an Easter Candlelight Service at 8 p.m. Saturday, March 31.

The event will take place at Windsor United Methodist Church, which is located at 408 South Queen St. in Windsor.

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

April 1

Sunrise Service

MERRY HILL - Ross Baptist Church will host an Easter Sunrise Service at 6:30 a.m. Sunday, April 1 at 130 Gov. Eden House in the Black Rock Community of Merry Hill overlooking the Chowan River.

Dr. Jeffrey Russell will deliver the message. Breakfast will be served following the service. In case of inclement weather, the service will be held at Ross Baptist Church, 1020 Bull Hill Rd. in Windsor.

Dr. Russell and the congregation invite the public to attend.

Resurrection Sunday

WINDSOR - Resurrection Sunday will be observed at 11 a.m. Sunday, April 1 at Ross Baptist Church.

Morning Worship will begin with the adorning of the Easter floral cross, and the presentation of the Easter Cantata by the Adult Choir under the direction of Gail Smith.

Ross Baptist Church is located at 1020 Bull Hill Rd. in Windsor.

The Pastor, the Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Russell, and congregation invite the public to attend.

ROXBEL AG FESTIVAL SPONSORSHIP FORM

Company Name: _____
 Contact Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: (C) _____ (W) _____ Fax: _____
 Email Address: _____

Event to be held on April 7, 2018
 Yes, I would like to become a sponsor of the Roxobel Ag Festival!

Sponsorship Levels

- _____ \$1,000 Rain Maker Sponsor _____ \$500 Barn Raiser Sponsor
- _____ \$250 Harvester Sponsor _____ \$100 Cultivator Sponsor
- _____ Less than \$100 Seed Sower Sponsor (\$ _____)

Sponsors will be recognized in all advertising of the event as well as on-site signage.
 Sponsors will also receive a complimentary Roxobel Ag Festival t-shirt.
 Please indicate the size t-shirt you would like: S M L XL 2X
Please make checks payable to the Community Enrichment Group of Roxobel, Inc.
 Contact Cindy Vaughan for additional information.
 Phone: (252) 209-4738
 Email: CindyLou6280@yahoo.com
 Please mail forms to PO Box 403, Roxobel, NC 27872
 or Fax (252)348-3161 (Attn: Cindy)
THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE ROXBEL AG FESTIVAL!

Roxobel AG FESTIVAL Vendor Application

Name of Business: _____
 Name of Applicant: _____
 Mailing Address: _____
 Phone: (C) _____ (W) _____ FAX: _____
 Email Address: _____

Type of Booth: (Please select one)
 Advertising, Promotional, or Educational
 Selling Merchandise
 Selling Food

Please describe the items you intend to exhibit or sell:

In lieu of a vendor fee, we request vendors donate an item(s) valued at \$20 or more. These items will be used for our door prizes, raffles, etc.
 Please describe the item(s) you intend to donate:

All spaces are 10'x10'. If you require more space, please indicate:

April 7, 2018
 Vendor setup will start at 8:30 am. All vendors must be set up prior to the start of the parade at 10:00 am. (ALL Vehicles must be moved off site no later than 9:30 am)
 Vendors can close their booths prior to the event ending but for safety reasons, absolutely no vehicles or trailers will be allowed to be moved until the end of the event.
 Applicant's Signature _____ Date _____

Please mail forms to PO Box 403, Roxobel, NC 27872
 or Fax (252)348-3161 (Attn: Cindy)

ROXBEL AG FEST PARADE

Hosted by the Community Enrichment Group of Roxobel, Inc.

PARADE APPLICATION FORM Saturday, April 7, 2018

Parade Line Up: 9:30 a.m. Parade Start: 10:00 a.m.

To participate, please complete this parade application and return it to Roxobel Ag Festival. Please mail entry to: Roxobel Ag Festival, P.O. Box 403, Roxobel, NC 27872 Phone: 910-340-9817 Email: allaboutit66@yahoo.com or dbaker@fakermemphis.com Fax: 866-753-8404

The Deadline to Submit a Parade Application is 3/28/18

Name of Business/Organization/Self _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Name of Person in Charge of Float or Entry Contact Person _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Entry Description _____

Roxobel Ag/Festival organizers reserve the right to reject or cancel any entry at this time, should it be determined that it detracts from the basic purpose of the parade and the parade spectators. All signage is subject to approval of the Roxobel Ag Festival organizers.