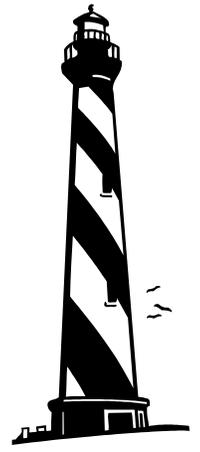


# THE BEACON BEAM



January 2019

## TRUTH TO ANCHOR THE SOUL

### The God of Peace Gives Perfect Peace

*My people will abide in a peaceful habitation.  
Isaiah 32:18*

Peace and rest do not belong to the unregenerate; they are the peculiar possession of the Lord's people, and of them only. The God of Peace gives perfect peace to those whose hearts are fixed upon Him. Before the Fall, God gave man the Garden of Eden as his quiet resting-place; sadly, how quickly sin spoiled the fair abode of innocence. In the day of universal wrath when the Flood swept away a guilty race, the chosen family was quietly secured in the resting-place of the ark, which floated them from the old condemned world into the new earth of the rainbow and the covenant, symbolizing Jesus, the ark of our salvation. Israel rested safely beneath the blood-sprinkled dwellings of Egypt when the destroying angel smote the firstborn; and in the wilderness the shadow of the pillar of cloud and the flowing rock gave the weary pilgrims sweet repose.

Today we rest in the promises of our faithful God, knowing that His words are full of truth and power; we rest in the doctrines of His Word, which are consolation itself; we rest in the covenant of His grace, which is a haven of delight. We are more highly favored than David in the cave or Jonah beneath his plant, for no one can invade or destroy our shelter. The person of Jesus is the quiet resting-place of His people, and when we draw near to Him in the breaking of the bread, the hearing of the Word, the searching of the Scriptures, prayer, or praise, we find that any

form of approach to Him brings peace to our spirits.

*I hear the words of love, I gaze upon the blood,  
I see the mighty sacrifice, and I have peace with God.  
'Tis everlasting peace, sure as Jehovah's name,  
'Tis stable as His steadfast throne, forevermore the same:  
The clouds may go and come, and storms may sweep my sky,  
This blood-sealed friendship changes not, the cross is ever nigh.*

Taken from "Morning and Evening," written by C.H. Spurgeon, revised and updated by Alistair Begg.  
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#### Beacon Baptist Church

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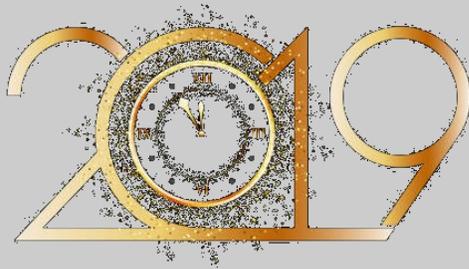
Gregory N. Barkman, *Senior Pastor*  
Michael R. Karns, *Minister of Christian Education*  
Robert F. LaTour, *Minister of Families*  
Gregory L. Phillips, *Minister of Music*

#### Sunday

Morning Worship...9:30 AM  
Sunday School.....11:10 AM  
Evening Worship.....6:00 PM

#### Wednesday

Prayer Meeting.....7:00 PM  
IMPACT Clubs.....7:00 PM  
Teen Ministry.....7:00 PM



# AS WE ENTER A NEW YEAR

by Greg Barkman

Anybody remember Y2K? Nineteen years ago, we were bombarded with doomsday predictions about the chaos that would ensue when we moved from the twentieth into the twenty-first century. We were told that computers would fail and electricity would be cut off. We were admonished to store up food and water in preparation for shortages, and to stock guns and ammunition to protect our families from looting and riots. As we know, 2000 came with barely a whisper, and none of the predicted tragedies occurred. So much for New Year's prognostications! In my opinion, 2000 was much less chaotic than 2018, though our present turmoil has nothing to do with calendars and computers and everything to do with politics and cultural decay. Most of us would gladly trade 2018 for 2000.

I remember someone on the radio excoriating pastors who failed to prepare their congregations for the looming Y2K disaster. They were labeled unfaithful under-shepherds. Strange, but I do not recall hearing anyone apologize when the doom-sayers warnings failed to materialize. Who was actually an unfaithful pastor? The one who refused to be sidetracked from the ministry of the Word, or the one who abandoned the Bible to join the humanly manufactured sensationalism of the moment? Fear-mongering and emotional diatribes attract a lot of attention, but they do nothing to prepare men's souls for the Day of Judgment. Only the faithful teaching of God's Word is blessed by God's Spirit to the salva-

tion of souls and the establishment of Saints.

I am thankful we are not facing Y2K as we enter this new year, but there is surely much to ponder as we replace our old calendars with updated editions.

## **A TIME FOR REFLECTION.**

New Years is a wonderful time to count our blessings. Although every day is the right time to thank God for His goodness, the completion of a calendar year should cause us to pause and recall what God has done during the past twelve months. God has sustained our lives another year. He who granted life in our birth, has faithfully sustained that life for the past three-hundred sixty-five days. He has provided for us and protected us in this present world for another year. This is cause for grateful praise!

Furthermore, He has allowed us to serve Him another year. What a privilege! Why should the One who has all power and wisdom include feeble men in His operations? Why should He who needs nothing outside of Himself grant men the opportunity to enter into partnership with the Most High God to accomplish His purposes in this world? One day, our opportunities for earthly service will be over. As long as God grants us life and breath, we should thank Him for the inestimable privilege of partnering with the God of the Universe in His eternal pursuits, for this alone deserves our utmost devotion.

We should have no difficulty remembering scores of additional blessings for which to give Him

thanks. May our New Year's celebration be filled with joyful praise to the throne of God above!

## **A TIME FOR RESOLUTION.**

I have no idea when the idea started, but traditionally, New Years is a time to make resolutions to live a better life in the year to come than we did in the year just passed. Jonathan Edwards, one of America's greatest theologians, and instrument in the hands of God to bring the first Great Awakening, was famous for his list of carefully considered resolutions. Although many have tired of the resolution exercise, I would encourage you to revive this honorable practice for 2019. Any time is profitable for reflection on the past and consideration of the future, but the changing of calendars is an especially propitious opportunity to improve our lives with the help of God. Which of us would say that 2018 was everything it should have been, indeed everything we wanted it to be? Who can claim that there are no areas of your life that should be improved? This is an excellent time for evaluation and action.

Nearly every one of us needs to do a better job setting priorities in the new year. Temporal desires constantly cry for attention, and the good is enemy of the best. Unless we give careful consideration to balancing the demands of life with an eye towards pleasing the Lord, we will gradually slide into an earthward focus. We must make Bible reading and prayer a top priority or days will pass without having met with God. Unless we are

*(Continued on page 3)*

**“What do you want, another year essentially the same as the last, or a year of growing in grace and enlarged fruitfulness?”**

determined to give church attendance high priority, too many activities will tempt us to steal the Lord’s Day for earthly pleasure. Unless we make serving others an intentional part of our weekly schedule, we will allow months and years to slip away with little to show for our lives beyond serving ourselves. The key to success is first to have a heart to please God above all else, and then to develop the self-discipline necessary to say no to carnal desires and yes to God-centered ones. Can we do this by alone? Of course not. But if we will recognize the need, lay out thoughtfully considered plans for improvement, and cast ourselves upon the Lord, we can make significant progress in the New Year. What do you want, another year essentially the same as the last, or a year of growing

in grace and enlarged fruitfulness?

**A TIME FOR REMINDER.** Will you succeed in your new resolutions? Not entirely. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak, and will be until we are with the Lord. We will fail, but we need not fail as badly nor as often as before. Yes, the flesh is weak, but help is available. Christ will help us establish good and reasonable goals for spiritual improvement, and Christ will help us meet those goals if we seek His aid.

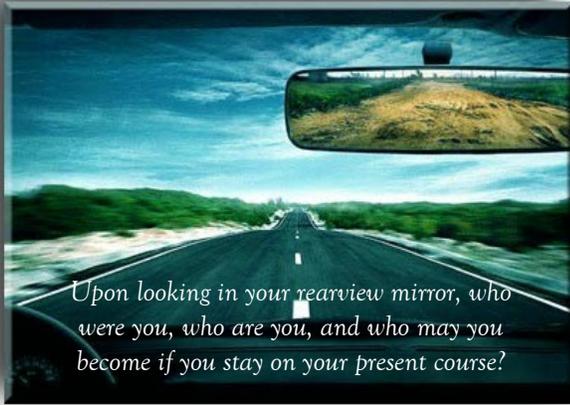
Originally published, January, 2012  
Revised, January, 2019

On the off chance that you haven’t noticed already—or, more likely, that you haven’t considered it recently—here’s something you must bear in mind. There will be a war in your heart between what the Bible has to say about you and what you would like to think is true about you. You and I tend to think we are wiser and more sanctified than we actually are. That is why we get defensive when someone points out our sin and weakness. I become defensive when what people say about me doesn’t agree with my view of myself. It feels like I am being misjudged.

This is why I need to remember constantly that the Bible is the world’s best diagnostic tool. When I look into the mirror of the Word of God, I see the exact essence of who I am. Only when I am willing to embrace the sadness of seeing myself accurately can I experience the joyful grace that God gives to those who acknowledge their need.

This means that, although I am constantly tempted to think otherwise, I must face the fact that my greatest need is not environmental. My greatest need does not derive from the fact that the brokenness of the Fall fractures every situation, every relationship, and every context. Yes, all my relationships are flawed in some way. And no, the world around me does not operate as God intended. But this environmental brokenness is not my greatest, deepest, most abiding problem. No matter what I face in this fallen world, my greatest problem in life exists inside of me and not outside of me.

*Broken-Down House, Paul David Tripp*



# Looking In The Rearview Mirror

by Bob LaTour

At first glance, “you are now becoming who you will one day be” is one of those statements that seems obvious and no big deal; however, it is far easier to see it as a sobering truth when you are looking in the rear view mirror at your life. Thinking about who we were, who we are and who we may become if we stay on our present course is something that few of us do with any regularity at all. For us “older folks,” the rear-view mirror stage of life reminds us that we have lived much longer than we have left to live even under the best of circumstances. *The truth is that we all will be in the process of becoming who we will one day be until we die!* Like Abel in Hebrews eleven, “we, being dead, will yet speak” through the personal memories that people have of who we were and the interactions that we had with them.

After reading that first paragraph, younger folks might feel out of touch because you think that you have a lot of road ahead of you. Like some others, perhaps you are too caught up in the landscape of today to give much thought to what impact your actions may have on who you become “down the road.” The Bible warns us about taking tomorrow for granted, let alone next month or next year!<sup>1</sup> The point is that we should all make the most of every day with at least two thoughts in mind. 1) Today might be our last day in the providence of God.<sup>2</sup> 2) Today is part of the autobiography that we are writing with no

chance to edit the pages once written. No matter what their age may be, a wise person will never lose sight of the truth that “it is appointed unto man once to die and after this the judgment.”<sup>3</sup> For those who are placing their trust exclusively and entirely in the life, death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, that judgment will be for reward with His welcomed invitation, “Come, *you blessed of My Father*, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.’ Then *the righteous* will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?’ And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.’”<sup>4</sup> The gift of faith precedes the gratitude of faithfulness that is evidenced through obeying Christ and ministering to others for God’s glory every day that He gives to us.<sup>5</sup> We either spend our lives with a focus on the things of this world, or we invest our lives with a focus on hearing our Lord say, “Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been

faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.”<sup>6</sup> For those who are not entrusting by faith the welfare of their eternal souls into the safekeeping of Christ as their Savior, the judgment will not be for reward, but for a lack of relationship. Christ “will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’” “And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”<sup>7</sup>

Not only does God appoint the days of our lives,<sup>8</sup> He also directs the paths that we take and equips us to fulfill His will in ways that bring glory to Him.<sup>9</sup> He promises, “Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; *In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.*”<sup>10</sup> One has only to think upon the lives of Joseph, Moses, Abraham, David, Jeremiah, Hannah, Esther, Mary, Elizabeth, Paul and a host of others to see this truth. It has given me much food for thought as I look back at a part of my ministry that is rapidly coming to a close— coaching and the lessons God taught me through it.

When I left college in 1973 to become the art teacher at Elkton Christian Schools in Elkton, Maryland, I had absolutely no idea that I would ever coach anything. As a 5’3,” 112-pound freshman in high school, football was a disaster and basketball was unthinkable. I lettered in wrestling only because the guy

*(Continued on page 5)*

## “Finishing” is doing my personal best for the glory of God and the eternal good of others.

(Continued from page 4)

across from me was my size. In college, I was a very average new-comer to soccer. Not much of a resume' for a coach!

Be that as it may, I was asked by the school's administrator, who only knew that I had played soccer in a college intramural program, if I would consider coaching the school's team. Looking back, the very fact that I enrolled in a university over 800 miles from home, and about which I knew very little, still causes me amazement. So many lessons and relationships in my life came about as a result of that one decision that I believe was made in the providence of God for my life.

As I reflect back upon my first several years of coaching, I shudder at some of the rough edges that God had to knock off of me, many of which still need His polishing. Somewhere on my coaching journey, I began to realize that with every practice, every game and every lesson learned and passed on, I was becoming the coach and person that I would one day be. The thought that God in His grace had made me holy nobility began to shape my attempts to coach and to teach in a way that honored Him.<sup>11</sup> I have failed to live up to that numerous times, and I continue to come up short far too often. The central truth that the Lord has taught me on this journey came from Paul's statement to Timothy. "I have fought the good fight, *I have finished the race*, I have kept the faith." "Finishing" is doing my personal best for the glory of God and the eternal good of others. "Finishing" as a child of God is what passages like I Corinthians 10:31-33 are all about.

"Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. Give no offense, either to the Jews or to the Greeks or to the church of God, just as I also please all men in all things, not seeking my own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved." Applying that to coaching means that I must not merely coach within the rules, but I must seek to coach within the spirit of fair play in a way that exalts the unique Excellency of God. That is a constant struggle! It includes striving to do your best for all involved, and, if that is good enough to win the game in the providence of God, then so be it! Whether we win or lose, His will is always done! Our responsibility is to "finish," and to respond to the outcome in ways that honor Him. Although I hate to lose on the scoreboard, I have come to realize that, if winning a game is the ultimate sign of success, there are far more unsuccessful people than successful people in the world of athletics. In that context, good coaching entails teaching a biblical view of **INTEGRITY** that honors the spirit of fair play; **INTELLIGENCE** that demonstrates an understanding of the game; **INTENSITY** that gives your best effort under control; **IMPROVEMENT** as an individual for the good of the whole; and **INFLUENCE** as others watch how your walk does, or does not, back up your talk. Those five pillars not only work in the rigors of competition, they work in the daily grind of life.

The purpose for sharing a very general summary of a look in my rearview mirror at coaching is to illustrate one major truth with which we all must come to grips. No matter what path or occupation the Lord

leads us down, Christians must not separate who we are in Christ from what we do. In others words, what we do and say, and even the motives that drive our actions and speech, reveal who we really are.<sup>11</sup> Upon looking in your rearview mirror, who were you, who are you and who may you become if you stay on your present course?

1 Prov.27:1; James 4:13-17 2 Job 7:1; 14:5; Psalm 139:16 3 Hebrews 9:27  
4 Matt.25:34-40 5 I Cor.:10:31  
6 Matt.25:23; Col.3:1-3 7 Matt.7:23; 25:41  
8 Job 14:5; Psa.139:16 9 Psa.37:23;  
Prov.16:9; I Cor.4:7 10 Prov.3:5,6  
11 Luke 6:45; Prov:4:24

# *On the Feminine Side*

## *On Becoming Seventy*

*by Marti Barkman*

Reaching age seventy doesn't happen overnight. Like the turning of the pages of a book one by one, one reaches seventy a day at a time and the pages of my book have been turning now for seven decades. It's taken a lifetime. Every birthday is a good day for reflection, but for some reason...maybe it's that Medicare card in my wallet!...this age seems a most significant milestone. As I reflect, I conclude that God has blessed me with a good life.

To what might I contribute this good life? We have no control over the families into which we are born but is there something that I, or someone else did that resulted in blessing to me? *I had parents who prayed for me.* They believed the inscription on the plaque in my father's study. "Prayer changes things". They prayed. My parents believed, wholeheartedly, that the 'effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much' and so they prayed. They longed for their children to know God, above all else, and for this they prayed. And they never ceased praying, as long as they lived, for we always gave them reasons to pray! God answers prayer.

*And because they prayed, I married a good man.* My daughters would confirm that I often admonished them to marry good men. I didn't have to describe a good man. It was God's kindness to me to give me not only a godly father and father-in-law, but a wonderful husband, a loving, kind, and good, man, and those little girls lived with these men in their lives. What makes my husband a good man? His overarching goal in life is God's glory, not his own. I've never heard him make this statement, but I

say this after living with him for 48 years. And he is a praying man. Those four little girls are all grown and married and there are now five good men in the family.

Why me? Why has God caused the lines to fall in pleasant places for me? I don't know. I only know it has nothing to do with who I am or what I deserve. My parents were not my choice, and I was not spiritually mature enough at age twenty-one to choose a husband well. But God made these choices for me. Why me? Because God is God and I believe he was answering my parents prayers.

They say at the beginning of each new year we should take stock of our lives and see how we look compared to this time a year ago. Have we grown? Have we learned? Becoming seventy seems a particularly good time for that reflection. In a sense, I think we are defined by what we have and have not learned in life. Given seventy years, the lessons learned have been myriad. Many have been learned, relearned, and reviewed more than a few times. Some have been as mundane as observing Joanna Isley clean chrome bath fixtures with a piece of aluminum foil. It works! Others have been significant, changing my thinking. Learning that I can and should honor God by trusting him has informed my thinking about difficulty. I've mulled it over hundreds of times as I've struggled to honor God by trusting him, but just recently have I realized why it is so helpful to me. It is important that I speak the truth about God by portraying him as trustworthy, but I'm personally helped by taking my mind off myself and putting it on God. Self is tiresome and never satisfied and wants more and

more of my attention. Better not to meet its demands.

But maybe the most attitude-changing truth has been the realization that every day...no, every second...of my life is ordained by God, who plans good for me. Those sweet elements of my life? Gifts from God! Those that are painful and hard to live with? Gifts from God! Ordained by God, all things, the major and the minor, have been God's gifts to me. We acknowledge that the *years* are in his hands, that the choices at life's major crossroads are his to call, but what about the *seconds*? Are they his as well? It was as I watched, in my rear-view mirror, a terrible car accident take place just a few yards behind me, that the significance of the seconds of my life came into focus. The time I left home that morning, down to the very second, was part of God's plan for that day. Had I been 10 seconds later I would have been driver's side broadsided by those two cars. Ten seconds earlier, I would have collided with them as they exploded in my lane.

Knowing what to believe and how to think is just the beginning. Changing my thinking, and thus my reactions, is another task. When I clean the bathrooms this week, will I bother to walk to the kitchen to get aluminum foil? And when I get behind a slow car whose driver cost me ten seconds, will I respond with irritation, or will I remember the ten seconds that saved my life that day on the road to Chapel Hill? When that pesky aggravation shows up, once again, will I see it/ them as a gift from God to help me grow more like Christ as I choose to show kindness to them? Or will my

*(Continued on page 7)*

(Continued from page 6)

sinful nature take control of my responses? When someone does me great harm, will I see them as a messenger of good from God, or forever live with the weight of a grudge in my heart? What do I want, more than success and the meeting of all desires, for my children and grandchildren? Is it something worthy of prayer and DO I PRAY?

Understanding and learning to live by simple truths is built upon a foundation of solid Biblical teaching, not a

litany of man's ideas about what God is like or sermons on five ways to be happy. Happiness is not God's goal for me. Knowing him is. As I've turned the pages of my life, I would conclude that the greatest kindness of God to me has been the gift of his Word, the ability to understand and the privilege of hearing it taught. Thanks be to God.

*Lord, teach me the happy art of attending to things temporal with a mind intent on things eternal.*

*—The Valley of Vision*

### *Redeeming the Time*

In his book *Finishing Well*, Bob Buford tells the story of Charles Schwab and Ivy Lee. Lee, a consultant, was given the challenge: "Show me a way to get more things done with my time." Schwab agreed to pay him anything within reason if Lee's suggestion worked. Lee later handed the executive a sheet of paper with the following plan:

*Write down the most important tasks you have to do tomorrow. Number them in order of importance. When you arrive in the morning, begin at once on the first item and stay at it until it is completed. Recheck your priorities, then begin the second, then the third. Make this a habit every working day. Pass it on to those under you. Try it as long as you like, then send me your check for what you think it's worth.*

That one idea turned Bethlehem Steel Corporation into the biggest independent steel producer in the world within 5 years.

How much did Schwab pay his consultant? Several weeks after receiving the note, he sent Lee a check for \$25,000, admitting it was the most profitable lesson he had ever learned.

Will you join me in giving this simple idea a try? Perhaps together we can have the satisfaction of redeeming some time that otherwise would be lost.

## THE BEACON BROADCAST

### *Monday thru Friday*

WITA 1490 AM (Knoxville, TN)	9:30 a.m.
WKBA 1550 AM (Roanoke, VA)	10:00 a.m.
WKPA 1390 AM (Lynchburg, VA)	10:00 a.m.
WBAG 1150 AM (Burlington, NC)	12:15 p.m.
WTRU 830 AM (Winston-Salem, NC)	2:00 p.m.
WDZY 1290 AM (Richmond, VA)	10:00 a.m.
WDZY 103.3 FM (Richmond, VA)	10:00 a.m.
WSKY 1230 AM (Asheville, NC)	7:15 a.m.
WYYC 1250 AM (York, PA)	5:00 a.m.
WYYC 98.1 FM (York, PA)	5:00 a.m.

### *Sunday*

WPCM 920 AM (Burlington, NC)	9:00 a.m.
WPCM 95.1 FM (Burlington, NC)	9:00 a.m.
WCRU 960 AM (Charlotte, NC)	9:30 a.m.
WBAG 1150 AM (Burlington, NC)	10:30 a.m.
WTRU 830 AM (Winston-Salem, NC)	10:30 a.m.
WDRU 1030 AM (Raleigh, NC)	10:30 a.m.
WSML 1200 AM (Graham, NC)	7:00 a.m.
WLES 590 AM (Richmond, VA)	10:30 a.m.
Harbour Light of the Windwards	9:30 p.m.
1400 AM/94.5 FM (Caribbean)	

### *Monday thru Sunday*

WXTH-LP 101.7 FM (Richwood, WV)	10:05 a.m.
	10:05 p.m.

# BEACON HIGHLIGHTS FOR JANUARY

## CALENDAR

01	New Year's Day <i>Church Office Closed</i>
02	Fellowship Meal Teen/Parent Focus IMPACT Clubs
06	ESL
09	IMPACT Clubs
12	Teen Homeplace Ministry
13	Lord's Table ESL
15	Coffee n' Courage Elders/Deacons Meeting
16	IMPACT Clubs
17	Silver Saints
20	Members Meeting ESL
22	Coffee n' Courage
23	IMPACT Clubs
27	ESL
29	Coffee n' Courage
30	IMPACT Clubs

## MEMBER BIRTHDAYS

03	Jonathan Wright
04	Aaron Lynch Debra McDonald
05	Tony Benesch Amy Oakley
06	Connie Moody
08	Joe Davis
12	Wayne Moody
20	Jonathan Guthrie
21	LaVerne Waugh
22	Robin Byrd
23	Tracy Arey Andrea Fairchild
	Greg Phillips Jeremy Verroi
25	Arthur Pope
26	Debbie Redd
28	Bill Brown
31	Melinda Arey Amy Freeman Ellen Guthrie Kayli Layton

## MISSIONARY BIRTHDAYS

03	Tom Chapman
04	Julie Rudolph
08	Lynne Champlin
15	Herb Taylor
18	Dave Rudolph
21	Bill Hill LaVerne Waugh
22	Cristy Slawson

*We welcome our new members.*

John and Mollie Harmon  
567 Olsen Drive  
Elon, NC 27244

*We express our heartfelt sympathy to the families of:*

Ken Carroll  
Garland Forbes  
Pastor Bill James  
David Rhoades

*The Beacon Beam*  
Beacon Baptist Church  
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Alamance, NC 27201

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