



Charity&Children

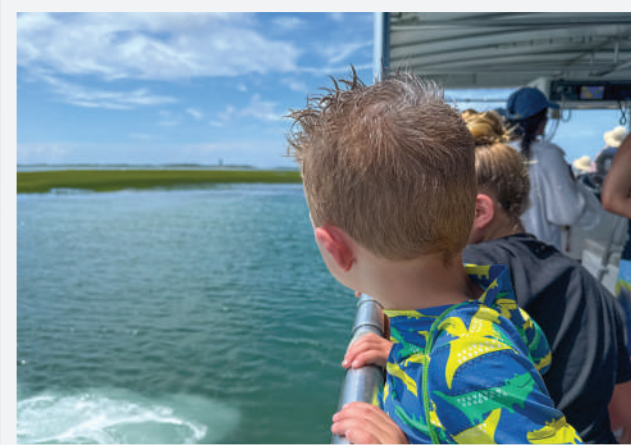
The historic publication of Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina—first to tell the story since 1887.

Read online at bchblog.org

August 2026

Issue 6

Volume 139



Houseparents embrace summer as a time for making memories

By Blake Ragsdale | Editor

The ferry that shuttles passengers from the shores of the Outer Banks to the beach near Cape Lookout Lighthouse carries a unique group on this particular Saturday. A dozen children, ages six to 14, and two couples who serve as Baptist Children's Homes (BCH) houseparents are among those making the trip.

Joy peers over the side of the boat as it glides across the water. It is the first time she has ever felt the salty spray of the ocean on her face. She and her two sisters are not only taking

their first boat ride, but they are also seeing the ocean for the very first time.

"We all went ghost crabbing on the beach. You have to go at night and use a flashlight to see how many you can find before time's up," Joy explains as the ferry continues toward its destination. "You put them in a bucket. We counted about 22 and then let them go."

"The first one out came crawling back to me," she says with a giggle, recalling what is sure to become a lifelong memory.

In many respects, the children and their BCH caregivers are one large family making summertime memories, just as many families do this time of year. Because of a variety of circumstances, the children are in the custody of North Carolina's foster care system. For BCH houseparents, stepping away from daily life in their family-style cottages for a vacation is one of their favorite ways to create joy, build connections and give children lasting memories.

(Continued on page 4)

A new school year brings brave beginnings

By David Melber | BCH Chief Executive Officer



Every August, a shift happens across our ministry. Backpacks appear by the door. Houseparents lay out shoes the night before. And in cottages and foster family homes in communities near and far, children who spent

the summer growing closer to the people caring for them, now step into something new: a school bus, a fresh classroom, a hallway full of new faces and new friends waiting to be made.

For most families, the back-to-school season means new pencils and first-day photos. For many of our children, it's an even bigger moment, one full of possibility. Some are starting at a new school this year, walking in with a clean slate, and looking at an opportunity to be known for exactly who they are becoming. Others have been with us long enough to look back on how far they've come since last August. And some of our young adults are stepping into college, a first job, or independent living for the very first time, launching into a future bright with promise.

A new school year often brings quiet feelings of uncertainty or anxiety as children navigate new routines, new expectations, and new faces. Sometimes that fear surfaces as a hard moment before it looks like anything else, a big reaction over something small. Our houseparents and foster families watch closely during this season, noticing the subtle changes, more quietness at dinner, more clinginess at bedtime, a question asked twice, and meeting each one with warmth, patience, and reassurance.

The beautiful message our children receive repeatedly is yes. Yes, you are safe. Yes, you are loved. Yes, you can grow, even when things feel hard or scary, because we will walk through them together. *This is why our children thrive on something the world cannot manufacture: people who show up for them again and again, and a God who does not change.*

Scripture tells us that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8). In a season full of new beginnings, that steady, unchanging love gives our children a firm place to stand. Our houseparents and foster families model it daily through encouraging words, cheerful mornings, and a hand to hold when something feels new. It is joyful, hope-filled work, and it matters more than most people will ever know.

Across our cottages and foster homes this month, you'll find children practicing their new morning routines with excitement and nerves, picking out first-day outfits, and counting down to the first bell. These small, happy moments are where God does some of His best work, growing confidence and trust one day at a time. And they happen because caring people like you make them possible.

This is where I need to ask for your help: Will you pray for every child in our care as this school year begins? Pray by name if you know them. Ask God to fill them with stability in new hallways, confidence in who they are, and a deep, settled joy. Pray that they would hear the truth over every lie the enemy whispers about their worth: that they are brave, that they belong, and that they are deeply, permanently loved by their Creator.

Please also pray for the teachers and school staff who will spend their days with our kids. Ask the Lord to give them wisdom and warmth, eyes to see the good in every child, and an abundance of patience and encouragement. Pray for their strength and joy, because they are shaping futures in wonderful ways, many of which they may never fully see.

And would you lift up our houseparents and licensed foster families? They are the ones cheering a child on through a brand-new class-

room in the morning and celebrating every small win again by evening. They rarely hear "thank you," so let's be the ones who say it. Please pray for their strength, their joy, and their encouragement through busy, beautiful days.

Finally, I want to invite you into something practical. On the back page of this newsletter, you'll find our Back-to-School appeal, a simple,

tangible way you can help our children start the year with confidence! The backpacks, supplies, clothing, and the everyday items will help a child walk into a new classroom feeling ready, proud, and excited for what's ahead.

Scripture reminds us that His mercies are new every morning (Lamentations 3:22-23). That truth carries our children through every new beginning, and it carries us as we walk beside

them, celebrating each milestone along the way. We get to be a safe place while Jesus does the redeeming. What a privilege that is!

Thank you for standing with these children and families. *Thank you* for praying. *Thank you* for giving. Because of you, every child in our care walks into this school year with hope.

"Scripture tells us that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8). In a season full of new beginnings, that steady, unchanging love gives our children a firm place to stand."

DAVID MELBER



Mission:
sharing hope . . . changing lives

Vision:
To provide the highest quality of Christian services to children, adults and families in a caring culture of measurable excellence

Charity & Children—Established in 1887 as the official publication of Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina, Inc., 204 Idol St., PO Box 338, Thomasville, NC 27361-0338. Blake Ragsdale, publisher/editor (jbragsdale@bchfamily.org); Marcia Housand, account clerk. **Charity & Children** (ISSN 0009-1723-09 USPS 100-460) is published 10 times a year by Triangle Web Printing, Durham, NC and mailed by Excalibur, Winston-Salem, NC. Circulation: 62,000 seven times a year, 30,000 three times a year. Periodicals postage paid at Thomasville, NC, and at additional mailing offices. For free subscription or to be removed from the mailing list or make address correction or change, use the above address and write to Attn: Circulation Manager, send an email to address@bchfamily.org or call at 336-474-1209. Subscribe online at bchfamily.org/charityandchildren. POSTMASTER: Send change of address to Charity & Children, PO Box 338, Thomasville, NC 27361-0338.

Seventy-Two Years, Five Months and Three Weeks

A husband builds a lasting monument to the woman who loved everybody

By Greg Teffertiller | BCH Chief Marketing Officer

Vernon Abbott does not round up. Ask the 94-year-old how long he was married, and he will tell you exactly: 72 years, five months and three weeks. “One more week, it would have been 72 and a half,” he says. “But we didn’t make it to 72 and a half.”

When you love someone that long, every week counts.

Vernon tells how they met with a twinkle, jovial and joking, delighting in the mischief. It began on a double date in a 1941 Ford, Shirley riding up front as another boy’s girlfriend. When the other fellows hopped out at a country store for cigarettes, Vernon turned around to talk. So did Shirley. “Next thing you know,” he laughs, “we were sitting there holding hands.”

“I feel like God has been with me all the way,” Vernon says. “God pushed me around the corner, got me to where I am. It was a wonderful journey, a journey with Jesus and Shirley.”

Ask who Shirley was, and Vernon reaches past ordinary words. “She was a large woman. I don’t mean large dress size. She was large from inside out. She loved everybody.” Friends at BCH called her Saint Shirley.

She cooked something special for every church function, grocery run and all. She handed dollars out the car window to strangers. Her philosophy could hang over the door of any ministry: “I’d rather give to two that didn’t need it than to pass one that did.”

Shirley served as the treasurer of her Sunday School class. After her passing, a class member asked Vernon to find the class treasury. He searched until he discovered it: a small bag of offerings from the ladies of the class, who faithfully continued sending their gifts to Shirley even after she could no longer be with them. In the end, the last thing left in her hands was the class’s treasure.

For decades, that treasure quietly made its way to BCH. Both of their Sunday school classes gave year after year; every time Shirley’s class treasury reached \$100, she mailed it in. When Vernon lay awake one morning, thinking of a song his daddy sang, “Give me the roses while I live,” he knew it was time. He wanted to give while he could still see it bloom.

This is how Vernon came to a table at BCH’s



Above: BCH staff pray with longtime BCH friend and supporter Vernon Abbott. In memory of his wife, Abbott delivered a check to establish the Shirley Abbott Endowment out of their shared love for BCH. Below: Abbott embraces BCH’s Alan Williams. The two became friends throughout years of phone conversations.

Mills Home in Thomasville, family gathered around him, carrying a gift of remarkable generosity to establish the Shirley Abbott Endowment, a permanent fund supporting BCH’s ministry to children for generations. It is open to anyone inspired by Shirley’s story.

“I feel that what we’re doing is putting up a small little monument for Shirley,” he says, “hoping it will grow and hoping that you will use it.”



For nearly 20 years, Vernon had called BCH’s Alan Williams once or twice a year, calls that began with business and became friendship. Shirley got in on the calls too, learning what even Vernon did not know: Alan’s given name is Jonah. “You can call him Alan if you want,” she told Vernon, “but I like the name Jonah.” After she passed, Vernon found the entry in her phone: Jonah Williams. At the signing to establish the endowment, they met face to face for the first time, a meeting his family says was on his bucket list. “When we have phone conversations, it’s just like talking to a really good friend,” Alan said. “This is a blessing.”

But Vernon did not drive from Raleigh only to reminisce. Late in the visit, BCH CEO David Melber told him something hard to hear: most

children who come into BCH’s care grew up in North Carolina, in the buckle of the Bible belt, yet have never heard the name of Jesus.

“You’re kidding?” Vernon said, awe and disappointment in his voice.

“Not kidding at all,” David replied.

Vernon had been reading Jeremiah, and one verse would not let him go: “The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved” (Jeremiah 8:20). “Y’all do something about that for these young people that come in here,” he charged. “That’s your job.” He reminded Alan of a call from years ago: “You said, Vernon, we have to feed them. And I said, yes, feed them, but tell them about Jesus.”

That is exactly what his gift will do.

“On behalf of BCH, our trustees and our staff, we are grateful for your testimony, your faithful life and your sacrificial investment in God’s kingdom,” David told Vernon. “It’s not about the money. It’s about where your heart is. Every time I see Shirley’s name, I’m going to tell the story of someone finishing well and leaving a legacy. Testimonies like yours are like gas in our tank.”

A monument to Saint Shirley now stands at BCH. Vernon intends to watch it grow.

You can contribute to the Shirley Abbott Endowment by contacting Alan Williams, BCH Advancement, at (336) 474-1277.

(Continued from page 1)

Even BCH's houseparents, who serve sacrificially in their roles, enjoy the unique experiences with children in their care. Adam and Sian Saunders, who have served for 34 years as houseparents at BCH's at Broyhill Home in Clyde, have taken many beach trips with children through the decades. Chris and Lisa Huskey, who serve in the same role at BCH's Truett Home in Hayesville, are experiencing the beach through children's eyes for the first time.

"My favorite is just seeing the kids' faces," Lisa shares. "The smile of the youngest, who just turned seven, has this smile... this little, toothless smile."

The houseparents are always mindful that many children come from situations where they took on responsibilities far beyond their years. As Sian explains, the beach provides a place where boys and girls can simply enjoy being children.

"Sometimes the kids come to BCH, and they don't know how to play," she shares, "We arrived at the beach and handed six-year-old Alena a kite. It was like her world changed as she flew it."

"Whether it's playing with the boogie boards, building sand castles, or flying a kite, it's the coolest thing to see will be fun for a child at the beach."

Summertime adventures and activities would not be possible without the generosity of BCH supporters. That is especially true for beach trips, a tradition rooted in the vision of donors George and Alberta McNeill.

The Morehead City couple donated land at Indian Beach in 1962. Their dream was for BCH to build a cottage where all children in the ministry's care could experience the beach. Two years later, McNeill Cottage opened. The rustic, two-story cottage has provided a place for hundreds of children and their houseparents to stay while making memories that span generations.

For houseparents, these trips offer more than



Above: With houseparent Sian Saunders' help, one of the children in BCH's care perches herself on the low limb of the tree outside of McNeill Cottage at Indian Beach. Property for BCH's beach cottage was donated in 1962. Below: six-year-old Alena flies a kite for the first time.



an opportunity for fun. They create moments to teach gratitude, strengthen relationships and help children experience the simple joys of childhood that many have missed along the way.

"Right before bedtime, one of our girls thanked me for literally 10 different things she got to do that day," Lisa says.

"I gave little Joy a hug as we put them to bed. She looked at me and said, 'Mr. Chris, I've never seen a crab before!'" Chris continued. "That was so cool. It's just been so much fun."

The two sets of houseparents and children are also grateful for the new friendships they've formed. It's an opportunity created by bringing together two BCH cottages from different Western North Carolina communities for a week at the beach.

"I've really enjoyed hanging out with Truett Home," says Amy, one of the girls from Broyhill Home's Carolina Cottage.

"It's been really good seeing the older kids helping the younger ones, like making sure they all found crabs the other night," Lisa shares.

The same holds true for the houseparents. The beach trip created an opportunity for the Huskeys and the Saunders to work together for the first time and form their own new relationships.

"We were excited to come with Adam and Sian

because they've done the beach trip, and we haven't," Lisa says. "Chris and I have learned something new everyday."

"And it's not a one-way street. I've talked to Adam multiple times about takeaways from the Huskeys," Sian says regarding their co-workers skills.

Amid the learning, relationship-building and first-time memories, the beach also gives houseparents an opportunity to focus on what matters most: pointing children to Jesus and His love for them.

During devotions and time around the dinner table throughout the week, the children have shared, from their hearts, the things they have learned each day as they've had fun experiences and witnessed

the beauty of God's creation.

"I think God made everything for everyone," one child said.

"Yes, and He created everything for a purpose," another responded.

"I'm thankful I found two shark teeth," one boy shared.

"I'm excited we're going to the aquarium. I was going to go for my birthday, but then we had the hurricane," an older girl added, referencing Hurricane Helene's impact on western North Carolina.

For BCH's houseparents, moments like these serve as reminders that God is working in children's hearts through both everyday life and extraordinary experiences.

"Regardless of the storms the kids and their families have faced, we get to point them to hope in Jesus," Adam shares. "As

houseparents, we walk alongside them whether it's in the cottages where we live or through a summer getaway. We witness the Lord using all of it to transform lives in ways only He is able."

* NOTE: For their privacy, the names of children in foster care are changed and faces are not shown.

"Regardless of the storms the kids and their families have faced, we get to point them to hope in Jesus. As houseparents, we walk alongside them whether it's in the cottages where we live or through a summer getaway."

ADAM SAUNDERS

Understanding out-of-home care, BCH's role, and serving 11,000+ children in NC foster care

By Nancy Osborne | Chief Programs Officer



When we hear the daunting number of more than 11,000 children in the North Carolina foster care system, what exactly does this mean? Where do all those children live?

The terms can sometimes be confusing, but that number refers to what is known as out-of-home care.

What is out-of-home care?

Simply put, children in the custody of the state's foster care system have been removed from their homes by the NC Department of Social Services (DSS) for their safety and well-being.

Once they enter the state's custody, DSS staff must identify out-of-home care, which is an approved living arrangement, for the children to live. Out-of-home care can be in a variety of settings. Some children are placed in **foster homes**. Some live in **residential group care** settings. Others are placed with either **extended family** or approved **non-relatives**. If a heightened level of care is required, some are placed in **therapeutic or hospital-like settings**.

One foster care system, many settings

For people who have supported Baptist Children's Homes (BCH) for many years, it can sometimes seem as though foster care and cottage care, which is a form of residential group care, serve two different groups of children.

In reality, the opposite is true.

The children BCH serves, whether in licensed foster homes or cottages, are all part of the same NC foster care system and among the more than 11,000 children currently receiving out-of-home care.

In these settings, which are available throughout the state, the focus remains the same: child safety, caregiver support, and wraparound services for achieving permanency. **Permanency** can come through safe reunification (which is always the primary goal), long-term guardianship, or adoption.

Until a permanent solution is reached and the legal care involving the child and family

is resolved, that child remains in out-of-home care. This process can, and often does, take years.

BCH's role is to provide exceptional care for children while working in tandem with DSS. *Most importantly, BCH seeks to carry out this work through its gospel-centered mission of ensuring every child, family member and relationship involved sees the hope that is only found in Christ.*

How foster care has changed

When BCH began in 1885, it operated as a true orphanage. At the time, children who could not safely remain at home because they had lost one or both parents were commonly placed in orphanages across the country.

Over the last century, that approach evolved significantly. Beginning in the 1970s and 1980s, the United States increasingly embraced family-style foster care as the preferred model for serving children.

As states made this shift, BCH also adapted in order to meet the changing needs of children and families. Yet one challenge has remained persistent: there are simply not enough foster homes for the number of children needing care. That gap between the two has actually grown wider as there is a nationwide decline in the total number of foster homes.

The challenge of keeping siblings together

The Families First Prevention Services Act of 2018 reshaped the role of residential group care settings across the country. Although there is

generalized agreement that a family home setting is preferred, undeniable realities remain.

During my brief time helping search for out-of-home placements for children entering care, none were more difficult than trying to find ones that had the capacity to keep large sibling groups together.

I remember one referral involving seven siblings. It was heartbreaking that the only option available at the time meant splitting them in placements throughout three different counties spanning hundreds of miles.

Recruiting BCH foster families who are open to siblings is a blessing, but most of them are still not capable of accommodating larger groups. NC licensing standards limit foster homes to five total children in a household.

Residential care still matters

Throughout BCH's locations, large sibling groups are able to be served. We can give those children a place to remain connected, even in the midst of the chaos and the confusion that comes with being removed from their home.

There are also some children who are able to thrive in a group-like setting for a time, especially when they are working through significant trauma.

The gospel is at the center

At BCH, it is a privilege to be able to serve children in foster care through out-of-home care across the state. Most of all, regardless of the setting, the gospel is firmly at the center. It is the opportunity to offer hope, healing, and stability while witnessing the love of Christ transform the hearts and lives of those we serve.

Say Yes

to seeing the lives of vulnerable children restored through the hope of the gospel. This is your church's invitation to join with other NC Baptists across our great state for this fall's Annual Offering.

bchfamily.org/offering




NC State fields an inspirational day for families

By Blake Ragsdale | Editor

For game day, anticipation builds as NC State Wolfpack fans eagerly await the football team's entrance onto the field. All eyes turn toward the tunnel at Carter-Finley Stadium in Raleigh, where players emerge to a roar of cheers from thousands of loyal fans. The excitement is nothing less than electric as the crowd rises to its feet.

On this particular Saturday, however, a completely different team was set to run through the tunnel. Instead of football players charging onto the field, Baptist Children's Homes' (BCH) foster and adoptive families, along with children and houseparents from BCH cottage homes, took center stage. Waiting to cheer them on were none other than NC State Wolfpack players and coaches, who welcomed them onto the field with high-fives and heartfelt appreciation.

On July 9, through the cooperation of NC State Athletics, the university's football team hosted BCH for the event's second year. It is the Wolfpack's way of encouraging families, caregivers and children, many of whom have an adoption story or have been part of the NC foster care system.

"One of the things that we really push here at NC State is giving back. We believe in a servant mentality," said Dantonio Burnette, Assistant Athletics Director and Director of Strength and Conditioning, who goes by the nickname Coach Thunder. "Tonight is a great opportunity for us because we say iron sharpens iron," he continued. "We are helping each other become better as men."

The evening consisted of touring NC State's state-of-the-art football operations facility, the Wendell H. Murphy Center, visiting the locker room and having fun on the field at Carter-Finley Stadium.

The most meaningful part of the event was the families and children spending time with the coaches and players. Several players shared their own journeys of foster care and adoption or overcoming adversity and spoke about how the NC State community helped them succeed. Two of the players, freshman Carmelo McKenzie and senior Isaiah Shirley, shared their stories with families from the stage.



Above: Players from the NC State Wolfpack football team and BCH adoptive and foster families, as well as BCH houseparents and children, burst onto the field and Carter-Finley Stadium for an evening of fun and encouragement. Below: Inside line backer AJ Richardson makes new friends with two of the visiting children.

"It is people like you guys in this room who have changed my life for the better," Shirley said to the parents and caregivers in the room. "What you are doing is big time. You're changing lives."

Shirley, an NC State senior defensive tackle, entered foster care at age 12 because of substance abuse issues in his childhood home. He recalled the love and support he found in his little league coach, Joe, and his wife, Sheila. They would become his permanent family. Shirley also shared how finding faith in Christ around age 14 helped him to let go of anger and anxiety and find joy.

"There's people, like me, who have been through things like you have. Just know that ultimately God is with you everywhere you go," Shirley said to the children in the room. "God has so much in store for you."

In addition to Shirley and McKenzie, Annabell Myers, NC State Associate Athletics Director

for Communications, spoke about the adoption of her now 18-year-old daughter.

"She and I may not have the same blood, but have the same heart. Emerson may not have grown within me under my heart, but she grew in my heart," Myers said.

"God's plan is perfect, and He has such a great plan for your life. So trust Him," Myers said as she concluded her time on stage.

After the team members' remarks, children and players traded autographs in the locker room. For the finale, everyone ran from the tunnel and onto the field as cheers and laughter reverberated across the stadium. Darren Murph, an NC State alumnus, his wife, Dana, and their adopted son, Maverick, came away inspired.

"It's amazing to see the hearts of all the players giving back to the community, being servant leaders, and hear testimonies of how adoption and foster care have touched the program," Murph said. "You have a deeper appreciation for all the people behind the scenes, and these guys on the field, that make it possible."

Payne is new director of HOMEBASE at WCU campus

By BCH Communications

Baptist Children’s Homes (BCH) is pleased to announce Caleb Payne as the new director of HOMEBASE, BCH’s college outreach ministry located at Western Carolina University in Sylva.

Payne brings a unique combination of ministry experience, business leadership, and a passion for helping others grow in their relationship with Christ. For more than a decade, he has served in ministry while also building a career in business management, experiences that have shaped his approach to leadership and discipleship.

“Leadership is about serving people, building relationships, and helping others grow,” Payne said. “My passion is helping people know Jesus, grow in their faith, and discover the purpose God has for their lives.”

As he steps into his new role, Payne is eager to invest in the lives of college students during a pivotal season of growth and discovery. He believes authentic Christian community and intentional discipleship are essential to helping young adults thrive spiritually.

It is this passion that drew him to HOME-



Caleb Payne (right) has joined BCH as the new director for HOMEBASE College Ministry at Western Carolina University in Sylva. He is pictured with his wife of 19 years and their four children.

BASE and the opportunity to disciple students wherever these young people may be in their personal journey.

“Everyone has a story, everyone has a purpose, and no one is meant to follow Jesus alone,” he said.

HOMEBASE is a collaboration between BCH and WCU. Located on campus, it serves as a hub for connection and tangible resources,

supporting students with both practical and spiritual needs. The goal is to help students achieve success academically and in life, regardless of their circumstances. Many students have little or no support system. Some have even aged out of the foster care system.

A devoted family man, Payne has been married to his wife for 19 years, and together they have four children. He enjoys spending time with his family through camping, hiking, biking, fishing, and other outdoor adventures. When he is not serving in ministry, he enjoys reading and pursuing opportunities for personal and spiritual growth.

Payne is excited about the future of HOMEBASE and what God has in store for the young adults he will encounter in his new role.

“My relationship with Jesus is the foundation of who I am,” he said. “It shapes how I lead, how I serve, and how I try to love the people God has placed in my life.”

For more information about HOMEBASE College Ministry, visit bchfamily.org/college.

Moms and Dads: In honor/memory of loved ones

NOTE: Listed are all Honor and Memorial gifts made to BCH from March 1 through July 1.

IN HONOR

Jane Allred
By Ms. Jeanette Henley

Mike Allred
By Ms. Jeanette Henley

LaClarie Anderson
By Mrs. Sheila B. Anderson

Barbara Barrett
By Mr. and Mrs. Randy Martin

Pastor Michael Barrett
By Max and Ann Pierce

Pastor Mike Barrett
By Catherine B. Roger

Teresa Barrett
By Max and Ann Pierce

Louise B. Beamer
By Mr. and Mrs. Hampton Beamer

Dot Best
By Laura Best

Lillie Bishop
By Mrs. Elsie L. Brumback

Jean Blanton
By Cynthia and Randall Owen

Gene Boyette
By William and Sandra Pope

Kay Boyette
By William and Sandra Pope

Elton Calhoun
By Mr. Malcolm Coston

Wanda Calhoun
By Mr. Malcolm Coston

Cynthia Castiglione
By Larry Kiziah

Bonnie Caudill
By Linda S. Little

Scott Caudill
By Linda S. Little

Lorelei Causey
By Tracy M. Holfer

Peyton Causey
By Tracy M. Holfer

Rev. CharlesPittman
By Dr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Margolis

Dan Cheek
By Danielle Hornaday

Dr. Dale Clark
By Mr. and Mrs. Pete Parrish

Mrs. Helen A. Clark
By Mr. and Mrs. Pete Parrish

Charles White Sunday School Class
By Charles and Karen White

Joel Coston
By Mr. Malcolm Coston

Sara Coston
By Mr. Malcolm Coston

Othello Crawford
By Sylva First Baptist Women’s Circle

Sarah Crouse
By Mrs. Catherine Annas

Mothers for Mother’s Day
By Pleasant Grove Methodist Church Men’s Group

Southport Baptist Church Youth Department
By Karen M. Fisher

Robert Evans
By Calvin Barringer

Ms. Ann Faircloth
By Mr. and Mrs. Mehmet Ergul

Past and present mothers of the church families
By Piney Grove Baptist Church Men

The Carlisle Family
By Diana E and A. Scott Langston

The Deitz Family
By Brenda and Stanley Malone

Wilma Foushee
By Cecilia F. Cook

Sybil Fretwell
By Sam and Teresa Phillips

Dr. Patrick Fuller
By Wendy D. Fuller

Tim Boyd’s Granddaughter
By Donna R. Jackson

Brenda Gray
By Catherine B. Roger

Eva Hagan
By Grady V. Kennington

Louie Hagan
By Grady V. Kennington

Ruth Ann Hall
By Michael Chandler

Elizabeth Moore Harrell
By St. Michael’s Episcopal Church

Emily Hiatt
By Libby Myers

Fredia Hill
By Mr. and Mrs. R. L. McIntosh, Jr.

Vickie Homesley
By Larry and Vickie Homesley

Rebecca Houser
By Carlyle Blomme

Faye Humphrey
By Mr. Gerald Humphrey

Jackson, Our Grandchild
By J. D. Barlow

Charlotte Johnson
By Stephen and Sandra Boone

Jimmy Johnson
By Stephen and Sandra Boone

Dr. Donald Johnston
By David and Lucille Ollis

Sherry Johnston
By David and Lucille Ollis

John Jones
By Miriam S. Rawls

Lydia Juengel
By Lizbeth A. Kennedy

Karianne, Our Grandchild
By J. D. Barlow

Peggy Kearney
By Larry D. Kearney

Karen Keller
By Brenda Lipe

Joline Kinlaw
By Mr. and Mrs. Gregory L. Allen

Michael Kotoris
By Kelley Moody

Phyllis Kotoris
By Kelley Moody

Dr. Kenneth Lance
By Mr. and Mrs. Davey B. Stallings

Glenn Loftin
By Mrs. Joyce M. Stanley

Patty Loftin
By Mrs. Joyce M. Stanley

Brown Mountain Baptist Church Members
By Billy and Penny Smith

Julia Miller
By Mary Jo Argenta

Jim Moore
By Mr. and Mrs. Michael A. Gibbs

Mary Ann Moore
By Mr. and Mrs. Michael A. Gibbs

Don Nelson
By Frank T. Ansonge

Elizabeth Nelson
By Frank T. Ansonge

Margie Oldham
By Dorothy H. Van Dessel

Jim Packer
By Lloyd and Margaret Willis

Joan Packer
By Lloyd and Margaret Willis

Our Grandchild, Parker
By J. D. Barlow

Mrs. Marcia Pittman
By Dr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Margolis

Bill Poole
By Mrs. Lois M. Rankin

Kristin Privette
By Malcolm and Denise Privette

Paul Privette
By Malcolm and Denise Privette

Mrs. Roach
By Mr. and Mrs. Gary L. Moore

Rev. Sam Roach
By Mr. and Mrs. Gary L. Moore

Phillip Robinson
By Jamie and Kristin Thibodeaux

Ryn Rogers
By Raymond S. Allen

Phyllis Royal
By Mrs. Margaret M. Wade

Wilbert Royal
By Mrs. Margaret M. Wade

Joann Sams
By Loyd and Joann Sams

Mabel Sechrist
By Judy Cloninger

Steve Sechrist
By Judy Cloninger

Ellen Sidbury
By Alfred Sidbury

Tom Sidbury
By Alfred Sidbury

Dr. Dale Steele
By Karen S. Havey

Mrs. Doris Steele
By Karen S. Havey

Mrs. Doris Steele
By Northside Fellowship, Inc

Catherine Stone
By Kelley S. Garris

Dottie Talley
By Sam and Teresa Phillips

Su Yean Taylor
By Mr. and Mrs. J. K. Shuler

Harold Tharrington
By Mrs. Tucker U. Twisdale

August Thompson
By Mr. and Mrs. Richard C. Thompson

Milo Thompson
By Mr. and Mrs. Richard C. Thompson

Ken Trouille
By Beth Trouille

Leslie Vandenberg
By Mr. and Mrs. Jim Van Den Berg

Kay Walters
By Mr. and Mrs. Michael H. Walters

Mr. Clifton Watson
By Mr. and Mrs. Don B. George

Mac Welch
By Gregg Welch

Barbara West
By Hanna Dffenbaugh

Wes Westmoreland
By Mr. and Mrs. Jay D. Westmoreland

Betty Jean Whitaker
By Martha Heavner

Ruth Williams
By Mr. and Mrs. Robert C. Kinlaw

Walter Williams
By Irene Dorothy Williams

Gene Winebarger
By Ms. Angela Winebarger

Dr. Bert Young
By Ida M. Collins

IN MEMORY

Ricky Alexander
By Alexander's Property Service

Jewel D. Applewhite
By Bill Applewhite

David Armstrong
By Carolyn A. Benton

Eunice Armstrong
By Carolyn A. Benton

Joe Ausley
By Mr. and Mrs. William A. Hipp

Carolyn Autry
By Mr. and Mrs. John Conyers

Rev. David Averette
By Karen Preddy

Janet Thomas Babcock
By Charles Babcock

Jewell Bailey
By Mrs. Doris Steele

Richard Baker
By Peggy Sue Medford

Henry Barber
By Noreen Cox Key

Virginia J. Barefoot
By Mr. and Mrs. James P. Tyndall

Michelle Atkinson Barker
By Peggy Robertson

Howard Barnard
By Charles W. Kearns, Jr.

Michael Barney
By Mrs. Judy S. Barney

Doyle Edwin Beasley
By Jeannette Beasley

Kenneth Hardy Beasley
By Jeannette Beasley

Bertie Benfield
By J. C. Green & Sons, Inc.

Bertie Benfield
By Phyllis L. Lemly

Pauline "Polly" Biggs
By Mr. and Mrs. Charles D. Williams

Pauline "Polly" Biggs
By Paula Purgason

Janet Ward Black
By Kathie Lineberry

Ronald Boone
By Mr. and Mrs. Stephen K. Hensley

Bill Bowles
By Mrs. Jo Ann B. Wilson

Helen Bowles
By Mrs. Jo Ann B. Wilson

Ricky Vann Bowling
By Mr. and Mrs. Revels

Jake Bowman
By Mrs. Orpha Wiseman

Jerry Bowman
By Mrs. Orpha Wiseman

Sandra L. Boyd
By Larry Boyd

Joseph Branch
By Sandra Barnwell

Ruth Branch
By Sandra Barnwell

Glenn Britt
By The Berean Sunday School Class

Mary Britt
By Alecia Zucker

Mary Britt
By Mr. and Mrs. T.R. Johnson

Mary Wood Britt
By Robin And Chris Miura

Mrs. Virginia Lee (Reynolds) Brooks
By Barry, Lisa & Danny Nickalson

Mrs. Virginia Lee (Reynolds) Brooks
By Brenda York

Mrs. Virginia Lee (Reynolds) Brooks
By Fawn Putnam

Mrs. Virginia Lee (Reynolds) Brooks
By Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Mater

Mrs. Virginia Lee (Reynolds) Brooks
By Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert C. Baird

Mrs. Virginia Lee (Reynolds) Brooks
By Mrs. Carol E. Abbott

R. Joyner Brooks
By Keith Brooks

Mary Belle Brookshire
By Linda Brookshire

Russell Brookshire
By Linda Brookshire

Joyce Broome
By Mr. Charles F. Broome

Sadie C. Broome
By Sherry L. Broome

Barbara Hester Brown
By Wanda Beasley

Billie Quinn Brown
By Mr. Ted L. Brown

Justin Claude Brown
By Ken and Lisa Brown

Richard Bullard
By Henley and Betty Hales

Jimmy Bullock
By Jacqueline C. Bullock

Louise Bullock
By Linda Bullock

Sue Bultena
By Melody Carlson

Travis Bunn
By Charles L. Huffstetler

Phyllis Burgiss
By Jennifer D. Lane

Clifford "Mike" Burrows
By Linda H. Wise

Ada "Sue" Cogdill Caldwell
By Sherida Buchanan

Elton Calhoun
By Mr. Malcolm Coston

Wanda Calhoun
By Mr. Malcolm Coston

Ada Fry Cammer
By Mr. and Mrs. H. Cornell

Lena Campbell
By Joey C. Campbell

George Carter
By Susan Wilson

Zola Carter
By Susan Wilson

Anne B. Collins
By Martha L. Quick

Thomas Collis
By Mrs. Patricia M. Collis

Linda Combs
By Jimmy S. Combs

Robert Ballard Conrad
By Fifi R. Wright

Ava P. Cooke
By Jo Ann Tyndall

Ava P. Cooke
By Wayne and Suzann Jackson

Joel Coston
By Mr. Malcolm Coston

Sara Coston
By Mr. Malcolm Coston

Pearl D. Cotton
By Gary Johnson

Loretta Cox
By Tiny S. Reagan

Mr. Nelson B. Cox
By Billie C. Harrell

Mrs. Nelson B. Cox
By Billie C. Harrell

Margaret Worley Crowe
By Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Wheatley

Ann Davis
By Harry Davis

Harold Davis
By Beth Crawford

Lucky Davis
By Beth Crawford

Effie Dempsey
By Linda Bullock

Eunice Dilday
By Mrs. Martha R. Rawls

Rupert Dilday
By Mrs. Martha R. Rawls

Josephin Dowell
By Ms. Angela Winebarger

Frances Dula
By Mrs. Judy Freaney

Christy Dunlap
By Grove Stone Baptist Church

Gerald Eaton
By Jody and Paula Hall

Mrs. Mary Edwards
By Mr. and Mrs. Michael H. Walters

Shirley Efird
By Mr. and Mrs. Lionel H. Hahn

Betty T. Elliott
By Maxine T. Ivey

Bob Elmore
By David Windley

Bobby Elvis Elmore
By Ellen Airs

Bobby Elvis Elmore
By Gary Burris

Bobby Elvis Elmore
By Karol B. Welch

Bobby Elvis Elmore
By Mrs. Hazel Elmore

Bobby Elvis Elmore
By Peggy P. Raney

William P. "Abe" Elmore
By Clarence L. Corbett Jr.

Ida Marie Epting
By Lura Widgeon

Christine Beshears Evans
By Calvin Barringer

Rita Evans
By Clara Ann P. Crutchfield

Rita Evans
By Mrs. Carolyn J. Holland

Kristin Glenn Faulkner
By Larry and Vickie Homesley

Patricia Fender
By Mr. Frank W. Fender

James H. Ferebee
By Ramona L. Humphries

Dr. Robert J. Floyd
By Shirley D. Floyd

Fred Dowell
By Ms. Angela Winebarger

Jere Frey
By Mrs. Margie Frey

Doris Friedhoff
By Leslie S. Vandenberg

Owen Friedhoff
By Leslie S. Vandenberg

Robert R. Gasaway
By Rhonda S. Douthit

Annette Gay
By Wendy A. Smith

Montaree Galloway Glazener
By Paulette G. Lankford

Paul Glazener
By Paulette G. Lankford

Barbara Goodman
By Kim W. Gamlin

Mildred Goodwin
By Margaret C. Floyd

Max Grant
By Mrs. Helen L. Grant

Russ Graverson
By Janet E. Odum

Rev. Macon P. Greene
By Kenneth M. Greene

Roy W. Grooms
By R David Grooms

Priscilla Grubbs
By James D. Grubbs

Juanita Gupton
By Norman O. Clary

Brenda Hales
By Georgia L. Moore

Stephen Hales
By Grace Hales

Tommy Hales
By Georgia L. Moore

Michael S. Hall
By Deborah D. Hall

Valeria Arrington Hardy
By Mrs. Elsie L. Brumback

John Benton Harrington
By Louise H. Johnson

Lucille Hatley
By Mr. and Mrs. L. Douglas Burgess

Marcus Hatley
By Mr. and Mrs. L. Douglas Burgess

Phoebe Hawes
By Mr. Douglas H. Hawes

Benny Gene Hayes
By Jane M. Martin

Rebecca Hellard
By John Michael Hellard

Ethel Ballard Helton
By Etta Shanholtz

Rev. Herbert "Herb" Henderson
By Mrs. Fran C. Henderson

Charles Hensley
By Jimmie and Lorene Johnson

Madge Hensley
By Jimmie and Lorene Johnson

Sherry Hensley
By Betty J. Parham

Kevin Herron
By Randy Riddell

Kathy Hodge
By Capt. and Mrs. Michael D. Coleman

Mr. Jessie Hodge
By Jeanette Hodge

Mrs. Jessie Hodge
By Jeanette Hodge

Sylvia Holleman
By Joe and Lisa Barker

Sherill Hubbard
By Mrs. Louetta M. Hubbard

Bradford Hudgins
By Coldwater Baptist Church

Bradford Hudgins
By Deborah G. Faggart

Bradford Hudgins
By Shannon Ferguson

Clifford C. Hurley
By Joan M. Ragsdale

Cecil Huskins
By Karen R. Young

Royce Ivey
By Jeannette Ivey

Voncile Jackson
By Tracey Tidwell

Fran Jarman
By Mr. and Mrs. Robert G. Horne

Bobby G. Johnson
By Mildred C. Johnson

Carl Wayne Johnson
By Claire B. Davis

Carl Wayne Johnson
By Mr. and Mrs. Bobby R. York

Carl Wayne Johnson
By Patty J. Arnold

Donna Marie Johnson
By Stephen and Sandra Boone

George Ray Johnson
By Grace A. Kelly

George Ray Johnson
By Joseph And Deb Klepeiss

George Ray Johnson
By Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Arrington

George Ray Johnson
By Peggy Everette

George Ray Johnson
By Teresa And Sean Cantwell

Margaret Jones
By Rose Clark-Hunt

Nancy Kay Jones
By Mrs. Verlene D. Stephenson

Carroll C. Wall, Jr.
By Mr. and Mrs. David Dunn

Jimmie Nowell, Jr.
By Alice Pearson

Jimmie Nowell, Jr.
By Glenn and Mary Lou Smith

Robert B. Neville, Jr.
By G. Van Bennett

Robert F. "Bob" Sykes, Jr.
By Judy W. Sykes

Turner Hargrove, Jr
By Lisa R. Dark

William E. Garrison, Jr.
By Colleen B. Garrison

Zanny F. Kistler
By Faye D. Kistler

James Branson Kivett
By Sally Story

Glenn Kornegay
By Glenda K. Alcock

Virginia Kornegay
By Glenda K. Alcock

Nicholas Kowal
By Shirley Altizer

Neil E. Ladtkow
By Kerry S. McFarlane

Mackie Ann Lambert
By Darin and Donna Strother

Mr. Robert Lambert
By Jeannie T. Simmons

Janet Lamoreux
By Mr. and Mrs. Don C. Hathaway

Reginald Lanier
By Mr. and Mrs. R. S. Lanier

Tanis Lanier
By Mr. and Mrs. R. S. Lanier

Betty Lawrence
By Mr. and Mrs. Paul Adcock

Joe Lawrence
By Mr. and Mrs. Paul Adcock

Christian Lee
By Terri N. Kittrell

Harold Lee
By Mrs. Alice J. Wiggs

Mr. Eric W. Lewis
By Ann L. Garner

Mrs. Eric W. Lewis
By Ann L. Garner

Dr. Samuel Little
By Nancy M. Reavis

Frances Ellen Little
By Lynn Littell

Gerldine Locklear
By Tabernacle Baptist Church

Stanley Richard Long
By Randall Long

Frances Lucas Mabe
By Ethel F. Robbins

Mrs. Minnie Lee Mabry
By Betty M. Evans

Rev. Leland Mabry
By Betty M. Evans

Mary Virginia Mack
By Martha A. Sudholt

Helen Marshall
By Pisgah Forest Baptist Church

Helen Marshall
By Salem Baptist Church

Brenda Martin
By Rebecca L. White

Al Matta
By Daniel E. Williams

Phyllis Matta
By Daniel E. Williams

Virginia Maupin
By Lloyd and Margaret Willis

Kelly Fred McBroom
By Sandra H. Helms

Thomas Franklin McCoy
By Audrey Becatti

Thomas Franklin McCoy
By J. Vance Suttle

Tom McCoy
By Susan Whetstine

Mary Lois and Glenn McDonald
By Joseph and Judy Lacheney

Rev. William David McGuffee
By Brenda K. Ledford

Garland L. "Mac" McKinney
By Jeanette M. Malloy

Irmgard "Bobbie" McKinney
By Jeanette M. Malloy

Pamela McKinney
By Ann M. Brock

Mary Ree McLaurin
By Sarah S. McLaurin

Michael Anthony Melchiorre
By Bear Creek Baptist Church

Ravon Michael
By Janeth Bean

Lillie Mikell
By Joseph V. Smith

John David Miller
By Juanette T. Thomas

Myrtle Trantham Miller
By Juanette T. Thomas

Lillian Marie Moody
By Betty A. Montgomery

Lillian Marie Moody
By Roma J. Montgomery

Judy Ann Moore
By Ellen M. Ray

Don Morris
By Marie D. Morris

Rev. Phillip R. Morrow
By Jo Ann W. Clarke

Rev. Phillip Ray Morrow
By Francis and Mary O'Brien

Rev. Phillip Ray Morrow
By Mr. and Mrs. Edwin L. Welch

Rev. Phillip Ray Morrow
By Mr. and Mrs. James E. Peacock Jr.

Rev. Phillip Ray Morrow
By Ronald F and Tamra W Thomas

Rev. Phillip Ray Morrow
By Todd Power

Dr. Zeb Moss
By Dr. and Mrs. Patrick D. Mullen

Evelyn Moss
By Dr. and Mrs. Patrick D. Mullen

Jonathan Munday
By Mrs. Nancy Munday

Brenda Green Newsome
By Tori Neville

Cecil Oates
By Susan O. Anthony

Gretchen Oliver
By Mrs. Joyce Watkins

Carey Thomas Page
By Mr. and Mrs. Dave Page

Fred Pait
By Pauline P. Taylor

Stella Pait
By Pauline P. Taylor

Beatrice Chandler Palethrope
By Sandra R. Davis

Ethel George Parish
By Mr. and Mrs. Richard L. Wagner, Sr.

Charles Parker
By Anna H. Brown

Lucy Smith Parris
By Mr. and Mrs. William B. Parris

Archie B. Payne
By Mildred Underwood

Judy Perkins
By Nelson and Doranne Beam

Sam Petteway
By Melisa B. Hanks

Ila Lanelle Simpson Phillips
By Drake McCain

Reena Phillips
By William R. Phillips

Wayne Phillips
By William R. Phillips

Miss Shelva Jean Pickler
By Miss Daphine P. Pickler

Mrs. Mary P. Pickler
By Miss Daphine P. Pickler

Miss Sara Posey
By MaryAnne Townes

Doris Powers
By Paul K. Platts

Helen Crawford Price
By Gloria J. Price

Commander Robert Sherwood Rawls
By Mrs. Martha R. Rawls

Franklin P. Ray
By Mr. and Mrs. Bobby J. Ray

Michael Ray
By Mr. and Mrs. Bobby J. Ray

Mr. K. B. Reavis
By Mrs. Dorothy Mayberry

Mrs. K. B. Reavis
By Mrs. Dorothy Mayberry

Greg Redmond
By Tom and Opal White

Amber Louise "Nalley" Reed
By Mr. and Mrs. Alfred L. Nalley

Rev. Dallas Renfro
By Beverly Dulaney

Joyce Rhymor
By Patricia Hollis

Dick Richardson
By Sue Richardson

Gene Roark
By Richard Roark

Opal Roark
By Richard Roark

Amelia Roberts
By Mr. Harvey D. Roberts, Jr.

Carolyn Roberts
By Peggy Banks

Clyde Roberts
By Paula D. Roberts

Adelaide Robinson
By Patsy M. Vaughan

Jimmy Rochelle
By Judith Beckler

Jimmy Rochelle
By Velinda K. Rochelle

Jimmy Rochelle
By Velinda K. Rochelle

Anna Lee Rowland
By Mr. Thomas W. Oswalt

Daniel Rudisill
By Linda and Harry Covington

Richard Russell
By Zeb Russell

J. Z. Salter
By Mr. and Mrs. Wayman Wheeler

Ruth Salter
By Mr. and Mrs. Wayman Wheeler

Elaine Scarborough
By Dianne P. Davenport

Elaine Scarborough
By Kim Wilson

Sara H. Sears
By Dr. Thomas H. Sears

Nancy Sebastian
By Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Sebastian

Mary E. Shaw
By David and Deborah Shaw

Jerry L. Singletary
By Julia H. Singletary

Mark and Sally Sink
By Anna S. Lowe

Fred Sisley
By Dennis and Jane Moore

Alethea Mae Smith
By David and Lucille Ollis

Dewey Melton "Doc" Smith
By Mr. and Mrs. Lionel H. Hahn

Esther O. Smith
By Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Hewett

Ethel Smith
By Donald F. Smith

Frances C. Smith
By Frank Carroll

Kelly Elaine Quigley Smith
By Sabrina Biddle

Lucille Smith
By Cypress Creek Baptist Church

Lucille Smith
By Jennifer J. Coble

Lucille Smith
By Mr. and Mrs. Gary A. Lynch

Ray and Bessie Smith
By Janice S. Goodman

Joyce Snipes
By Mrs. Wilma B. Foushee

Bill Southern
By Nancy C. Southern

Brenda Speller
By Mr. and Mrs. Johnny H. Batchelor

Vance Spicer
By Marie Farmer

Ronald Wayne Sproles
By Gary M. Welch

Allen J. Yarboro, Sr
By Tim and Susan Elmore

Allen J. Yarboro, Sr
By Waco Baptist Church

Derwin Conrad Hinson, Sr
By Janet C. Nelson

Lewis K. Mowery Sr.
By Barbara K. Mowery

Michael W. Branscome, Sr
By Linda Branscome

Mr. Joseph Alex Ross, Sr.
By Mr. and Mrs. Carl A. Ross

Orion Henry Barber, Sr
By Barbara P. Westmoreland

Orion Henry Barber, Sr
By Tevis L. Watts

Walter L. Vaughn, Sr.
By Marie Vaughn

Doris Steele
By Mrs. Mary Ruth D. Hord

Dr. Dale Steele
By Cathy J. Pinter

Dr. Dale Steele
By Donna Pace

Dr. Dale Steele
By Dr. and Mrs. Jesse McNiel

Dr. Dale Steele
By Judy Henley

Dr. Dale Steele
By Logan Trading Company

Dr. Dale Steele
By Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Ross

Dr. Dale Steele
By Northside Fellowship, Inc

Dr. Dale Steele
By Peggy L. Aldridge

Dr. Dale Steele
By Rickie and Susan Haigler

Ginger Stephenson
By Pamela Jones

Susie Stewart
By Ray Denise Flynn

Lynn Marie Stokes
By Mr. and Mrs. William D. Stokes, Jr.

Ronnie Stone
By SCVMC 2ND BN CO B 1ST PLT

Jesse Stowe
By Brenda W. Emmons

George Strickler
By Gwendolyn Stickler

Merton Strickler
By Gwendolyn Stickler

Sherrill Styron
By Oriental First Baptist Church

Mary Svare
By Mr. and Mrs. David Fields

Girttrue H. Young Talley
By Holland Ray Talley

Steve Taylor
By Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Burton, Jr.

Rev. Lawrence E. Tew
By Mrs. Betty J. Tew

Annette Y. Thomas
By Mr. Joe H. Thomas

Kim Thompson
By Ms. Jeanette Henley

Kim Thompson
By Nancy A. Sherrill

Mary Roberta Trogdon
By Mr. and Mrs. Hershel L. Reddeck

Mary Tucker
By Ann Avery

Lillian Gray Tuttle
By Riverside Baptist Church

Nannie H. Tyndall
By Mr. and Mrs. James P. Tyndall

Emma Catherine Brown Usher
By Concord Baptist Church

Emma Catherine Brown Usher
By Sylvia and Ray Davis

Dorothy Vick
By Mr. and Mrs. Joel F. Hancock

Sharon Wade
By Irene Thomas

Edna Jean Roberts Wall
By Mr. and Mrs. Ray Sullivan

Kenneth Wallace
By Pam Jones

Linda Ward
By Jimmy S. Combs

Louise Earl Ward
By Mr. and Mrs. Barry Stallings

April Bulter Washer
By Nancy J. Shermer

Joe Webb
By George W. Long

Joe Webb
By Hilda G. Talbert

Joe Webb
By Julia B. Joyner

Joe Webb
By R. Trent and Marlene Thompson

Kenneth Joe Webb
By Richmond Senior High School

Kenneth Reid "Joe" Webb
By Stephen Bateman

Nettie Weeks
By Jerry Weeks

William Weeks
By Jerry Weeks

Jessica Lynn Weisner
By Mrs. Patricia Norris

Jeffery Wentz
By Rosie T. Culp

Jackie West
By Carolyn B. West

Miranda Jean-Ann West
By Maurice E. West, Sr.

Maxine Wheatley
By Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Wheatley

Kenneth Wayne Wheeler
By Hallie Wheeler

Mrs. Stella Wheeler
By Mr. and Mrs. Wayman Wheeler

Elaine Wickert
By Mr. John N. Wickert, Sr.

Mrs. Viva Wiggan
By Douglas Rumley

Archie Williams
By Gurney Davis

Jack Glenn Williams
By Christine C. Williams

Lucy Williams
By Irene Dorothy Williams

Connie C Willis
By Dale Willis

John Wilson
By Mrs. Jo Ann B. Wilson

Phil Wilson
By Jane C. Teague

Winina Wilson
By Mrs. Jo Ann B. Wilson

James Roland Wood
By Freddie L. Beasley and Arnold

Jim Wright
By Judy Wright

Mary Elizabeth Rollins Wright
By Mr. J. D. Wright, Jr.

Events Calendar:

Thrive! Summit for Foster & Adoptive Families

Date: August 28-29
Location: Mercy Hill Church, Clifton Road Campus, Greensboro, NC

- A two-day event focused on encouraging, equipping, and walking alongside foster & adoptive families.

Church Equipping: Seeing Through His Eyes

- A gospel-centered, trauma-informed training designed to equip your church with tools to support those impacted by trauma and create spaces of care and connection.

Raleigh, NC: Saturday, September 19
10:00am - 1:30pm. Location: Providence Church, Raleigh, NC

Lincolnton, NC: Saturday, September 19
8:30am - Noon. Location: Freedom Church, Lincolnton, NC

High Point, NC: Saturday, October 3
8:30am - Noon. Location: Green Street Baptist, High Point, NC

Foster Care Interest Meeting

Date: Saturday, September 19
Time: 9:30 am - 11:30am
Location: Blue Creek Baptist Church, Jacksonville, NC

- Curious about fostering? Praying for direction? Ready to take a next step, or simply want to learn how to support foster families? This meeting is for you.

Friends of Children Saturday Workdays

Time: 8:30 am - 12:30pm
A one-day mission opportunity for volunteers of all ages where churches, families, and individuals serve through hands-on projects such as landscaping, cleaning, and organizing that directly impact the lives of those in BCH's care. A complimentary lunch is provided.

- September 26 Locations:**
Kennedy Home, Kinston, NC
Mills Home Thomasville, NC
- October 10 Locations:**
Broyhill Home, Clyde, NC
Laura's Home, Shelby, NC
Odum Home, Pembroke, NC

Foster Family Getaway

Date: Friday, Oct. 23 - Sunday, Oct. 25
Location: Caraway Conference Center, Sophia, NC

- Exclusively for BCH foster families.** The retreat is an opportunity for rest, encouragement, and connection for foster families—a weekend for caregivers and children to be poured into and reminded they're not walking this journey alone.

Register & learn more: bchfamily.org/events

Alumnus writes about his five years at MH, remembering beloved friends—August updates

By Lib Johnson, (336) 299-7412 libsjohnson@triad.rr.com



We hope you had a marvelous time with friends at another great homecoming. You can look forward to notes about homecoming in the next issue off *Charity & Children*.

I recently noticed a commentary written by **Douglas Michael Jones** about the five years he spent at Mills Home. It was a sort of mental study that had been prompted by someone asking about the impact that living in an orphanage had on his career. It was a very interesting and thorough article in which he seemed to conclude that living at Mills Home in the 1950's was probably the ideal time to have lived there. He said, "One day I sat down and wrote about life at Mills Home and my hindsight showed it was the ideal place for ANY kid to live and grow up." So I think he was also saying that living at MH had a huge impact on his total life.

One important thing he pointed out was MH kids learned responsibility through the duties they were assigned when they were old enough. And he noted few kids ever complained about the work.

By the 1950's, Mills Home children attended Thomasville City Schools but still had their own sports teams. They received physical benefits from those sports and a chance to be recognized for their accomplishments. School also provided MH kids with the chance to develop and excel in academics. And of course, the Noah Richardson library located there on campus enhanced the academics as well as their social relationships. There were also music teachers for piano and band lessons and at times there were teachers to teach various crafts like painting and ceramics. Mills Home Baptist Church gave them the opportunity to work and study on spiritual matters and adopt a faith. Most of them learned how to pray and how to have a Christian faith that would

carry them through life.

We were much concerned to learn that **Susan Meeks Reaves** had been hospitalized for several weeks recuperating from a stroke. She is now continuing her recuperation at home. We hope folks will remember Susan in your thoughts and prayers. Also, pray for her husband **Richard** who is due for more surgery. Susan would love to hear from you. Her contact information is 332 Brick Dr., Longs, S. C. 29568. Email: SVM867@gmail.com; Phone and Test: 980-263-4377.

A recent note from **Eric Hoyle** says, "As many of you know, **Keith Yow** and his wife **Mary** lived in Walkertown, NC for many years. About 10 years ago, Mary was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease and dementia. She spent the last six years of her life in a Kernersville nursing home. Keith was very attentive to Mary, visiting her frequently, often daily. During Covid, he would "visit" Mary simply by standing outside her window and waving to her. Her funeral was held in Mills Home Church, and her ashes were interred in God's Acre. After Mary's passing, Keith continued to live alone in their home. He was able to manage his affairs, drive his car locally for simple shopping, and enjoy watching football on TV. After watching this year's Super Bowl, Keith fell at home one the night. He was found the next morning with no obvious injuries but a lot of confusion. He was taken to a Winston-Salem hospital where he spent several weeks regaining his mental and physical balance but was unable to walk. He was discharged to Trinity Glen, a Winston-Salem nursing home for further rehabilitation. Keith is now entering long-term nursing care there because he is still unable to walk unassisted and care for himself alone. Please send cards to Keith address to Keith Yow, Trinity Glen, 849 Waterworks Rd., Winston-Salem, NC 27101. You may also text message Keith at 336-339-6393."

We were saddened to learn that **Albert (Dobby) Yarborough** (1966-1974) passed away December 12, 2025. Albert entered MH from Thomasville in 1966 with his siblings **Faye** and **James**. He left in 1974. For him, adapting to life at MH was easy because of the availability of so many youngsters his age who enjoyed doing the type of things he did: swimming, activities at the gym and church, and in the summertime, visits in the valley. After leaving MH, Albert remained in Thomasville, married a local girl, **Elizabeth Stephens**, and they reared one daughter, **Danielle Leeann**. He is survived by them both. He worked as a plant supervisor for 28 years for Prelude Company (Cone Mills) in High Point and 13 years for Rubber Mill in Liberty, NC. He loved golf and deer hunting. He was also an avid NASCAR fan and loved both Cale Yarborough and Dale Earnhardt. Albert was preceded in death by his half-brother, **Pete Gobble**, and his beloved canine companion, **Colby**. Other family members who survive Albert are brother, **James Craig**; sister, **Faye Yarborough Ridge**; and granddaughter, **Callie Ann**. A visitation and funeral service were held on December 17, 2025 at J C. Green's Funeral Home. Send condolences to Faye Yarborough Ridge at 347 Oakwood Circle, Lexington, NC 27295.

Bobby Gene Hargus of Granite Falls, passed away March 25, 2026. He was from Caldwell County. He had a deep love for classic cars and could often be found fishing whenever he had the chance to relax. He also enjoyed crafting knives, a hobby that reflected his skill and patience. Known for his playful spirit, Bobby loved cruising through the neighborhood in his golf cart, always managing to bring smiles and laughter to his family. In addition to his parents, Bobby is preceded in death by his two siblings **Larry Powell** and **Judy Reid**. Those left to cherish Bobby's memories are his brother **Ben Minton** and sister-in-law

Cindy of Lenoir. Per Bobby's request, no services were held.

Betty Shuler Dimitry contacted me on June 4th with the sad news of her brother **Bruce Shuler's** death. From a family of 10 children, Bruce, Betty, and **Phyllis Shuler** entered Mills Home in 1959, and Bruce graduated in 1967. He was known by everyone to be caring, kind hearted, meek and personable. He was an outstanding Thomasville Senior High School football player. (I hope to share more information on Bruce in the next column). Friends can send condolences to his sister Betty Shuler Dimitry, 3625 Lake Diana Dr., Deltona, FL 32738 and to Phyllis Shuler Elks, 2100 Baltimore St., High Point, NC 27263.

In Memoriam: Alumni who passed away between August, 2025 and July, '26 are as listed: **Virgil L. Amberson**, 1951-60; **Jenelle Calloway Cooper**, 1941-48; **Betty Calloway Coley**, 1941-49; **Her-man Canady**, 1953-64; **Darrell Corder (Coach)**, 1957-63; **Betty Gurley Stubbins**, 1941-46; **Mary Nell Hall Mahler**, 1960-66, staff; **Bobby Hargus**, 1960-67; **Judy Hargus Bumgardner**, 1960-68; **Becky Jo Harris Davis**, 1946-61; **Gerald Lee Hawkins**, 1970's, staff; **Paul Loman**, 1966-70; **Doris Maney Mason**, 1940-50; **Johnny Mills**, 1952-61; **Patti Newall Holland**, 1961-66; **Teresa Sue Penley Henson**, 1964-71; **Bruce Shuler**, 1959-67; **Vicki Whitaker McManus**, 1963-68; and **Albert (Dobby) Yarborough**, 1966-1974.

Reminder: Please send corrections or additions of addresses for *Charity & Children* (and our address book) to **Flora Hicks Patton** at florapatton06@gmail.com, 6428 Sisk Carter Rd., Rockwell, NC 28138, or 704-795-0017. To arrange a resting place in the God's Acre Columbarium, contact **Sharon DeHart Stiles** at 704-685-2443 or email her at sharondstiles51@yahoo.com.

Lib Johnson was a resident of Mills Home from 1946 to 1957. Johnson began writing the Mills Home alumni column in 1992.

Sharing present adventures and revisiting past days at the farm—August alumni updates

By James Clayton Pate, (910) 358-0992, 3894 Hwy 41 West, Trenton NC 28585



I was very happy when the alumni changed our Homecoming from July 4 to the first weekend of June. You may be thinking, “Why am I happy?” Well, it’s because my sweetheart decided she wanted to get married on July 3, 1993. She was gracious enough to still want to go to our Homecoming that night. We had lots of fun with my Kennedy Home brothers and sisters! We got a motel room in Kinston for the night. We got up the next morning, had breakfast and headed back to Kennedy Home for the alumni church service. It was a good service! We then left that evening after the watermelon cutting for the blue ridge mountains. By the time this edition of the *Charity & Children* comes out it will be 33 years of marriage for **Joyce** and I. I soon fell out of going as the years went by and weren’t present for quite a few of the Homecomings. It was my mother’s birthday as well on the third, fourth, or fifth. Haha. Our children, a daughter named **Donna** and a son named **James**, loved to go to Homecoming. They enjoyed swimming in the pool and playing the gym. The pool is now gone. The kiddos are now 53 and 41. A lot of years have passed, and I mean fast! I myself am 73 and Joyce is 65. I am now President of the Alumni Association and the columnist for Kennedy Home column in *Charity & Children*. Where did the time go?! I would like to thank my wife Joyce Pate and all my alumni brothers and sisters for all their help. Keep sending in your stories and prayer requests. I would also like to thank the staff at Kennedy Home for all their hard work and making us feel very welcome at Homecoming. Sincerely **Clayton Pate** (1958-1972).

Donna Daniels Wade (1969-

1973) sent the following:

“**Scott** and I recently took a trip to Texas to spend some time with my brother **Johnnie** and his wife **Elaine**. The plan was for us to arrive at his house in Corpus Christi and then travel with him to Big Bend National Park where we would camp in his RV for a week. The day before we were to leave Johnnie called to say that he had an issue with his truck. Well, it turned out that he bought a new truck since he could not trust the other one. When he picked up the new truck there was an issue with it, but it was quickly remedied. After we arrived and packed the camper, one final glitch occurred as one of the RV tires was damaged. Johnnie’s wife first thought that maybe God did not want us to take the trip, but Scott reminded her that we should be grateful that God allowed these things to happen BEFORE we left for the 12-hour drive. After replacing all four tires, we were on our way!

“Big Bend National Park is one of the few dark-sky areas left in the country. It covers about 800,000 acres of mountains and desert. Within the same park there are different types of mountains and valleys. The wildlife is varied and includes mountain lions, wolves, (we heard them but, did not see them), road runners (we saw a few), lizards, scorpions and diamondback rattle snakes (Scott had a close encounter with one of these). There were various kinds of trees and cacti (the prettiest cactus was the ocotillo). The Rio Grande river turned out to be less than grand (at least the part we saw). It was so narrow and shallow we were able to actually cross over into Mexico but you can believe we didn’t stay but a minute, of course. We couldn’t have gone further anyway since the mountain cliff was about 1,500 feet. In addition

to sightseeing, we enjoyed some great food and fun together. We played Farkle and Mexican Train Dominoes. If you have not played these two games, you are really missing now on a lot of fun. Seeing the park was a great reminder of just how powerful and awesome God is. I didn’t see how anyone could see the great things in nature and not believe.”

Dicky Maynor (19__-1974) had his 70th birthday June 1, 2026 after recovering from a heart attack. Dicky had two stints put in and is doing good at this time. He thanks everyone for their prayers and phone calls. Today is June 2, 2026, and we are planning and working on Homecoming this Saturday, June 6. Dicky is doing a great job helping from bed with his responsibilities. Please continue to pray for Dickey. He is wearing a vest that will give him compression if his heart goes into A-fib.

Donna Weeks (AKA Big D) (1967-1974) will move to Raleigh, after graduation from North Lenoir, where she will work as a secretary for the Army Reserve and attend Hardbarger Business College Business College. While at Kennedy Home, Donna was part of the choir program under brother **John Thompson** (J.T.’s) leadership and was a junior deacon. Donna enjoyed skating along with playing basketball, ping pong and tennis. Donna’s plans were, “I plan to get married in 1975.” If anyone is in touch with Donna Weeks, drop me a line for the column in *Charity & Children* please.

Haldane J. Hensley (1943-1974) came to work for Kennedy Home in 1943. He was placed in charge of the dairy along with the beef cows and the swine (hogs). Mr. Hensley was employed at Kennedy Home for 31 years. He was the longest full-time employee on the Kennedy Home pay roll. IN 1973, Ken-

nedy Home grossed over \$35,000 in hog sales. In 1974, there were 410 swine, sows, pigs and boars on the farm. However, when Mr. Hensley first came to Kennedy Home, there were only 10 sows. In 1974, there were 65 brooding sows. There were at least 24 with piglets there all the time. Top hogs weighed out at 210 pounds and around 180 top hogs weighed out at 220 pounds. Some of the hogs were sold to Frosty Morn Packing Company in Kinston. Feeder pigs weighing between 40-100 pounds were carried to the auction and sold in Wallace. At Kennedy Home Farm, they raised Hampshire (black and white) along with Yorkshire (white). When the pigs were born, Mr. Hensley would sit in a chair, put the pig between his legs, cut its teeth, give it a shot, and give it back to momma sow. He would do this to around 12 of them at a time (one by one). They would be squealing the whole time until he gave them back to their momma.

I personally learned a lot from Mr. Hensley. Mostly, that I did not want to be a hog farmer! HaHa!

The prayer list is as follows:

- Dicky Maynor (heart)
- Billy Smithwick (left eye)
- Avon Jackson Nelson (surgery)
- Alice S. Russum (BC)
- Ed Pridgen
- Don Pate
- Dale and Patsy
- Karen C. (Parkinson’s)
- Doug M. (heart)
- Mike P. (foot)
- David (family loss)
- Mildred H. (family loss)
- Dana J. (knee surgery)
- James J. (job and finances)
- Ralph D. (stage 4 cancer)
- Janet S. (health issues)

James Clayton Pate was a child in care at Kennedy Home from 1958 to 1972. He and his wife Joyce live in Comfort, NC.

Your Back-to-School gift changes a child's story not just today but **for a LIFETIME!**

As a new school year approaches, children from across our North Carolina mission field are arriving in Baptist Children's Homes' care with great needs and uncertainty.

That was true for eight-year-old Samantha. When she arrived at BCH, everything she owned fit in a grocery bag. She had only a worn t-shirt and a pair of boys' baseball pants. Her houseparents assured her that she would be ready for school.

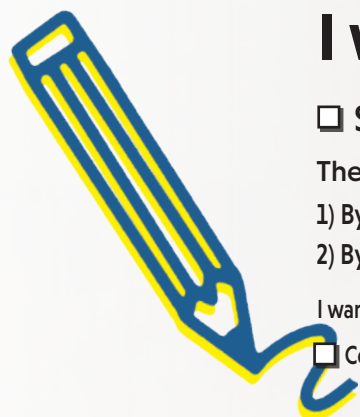
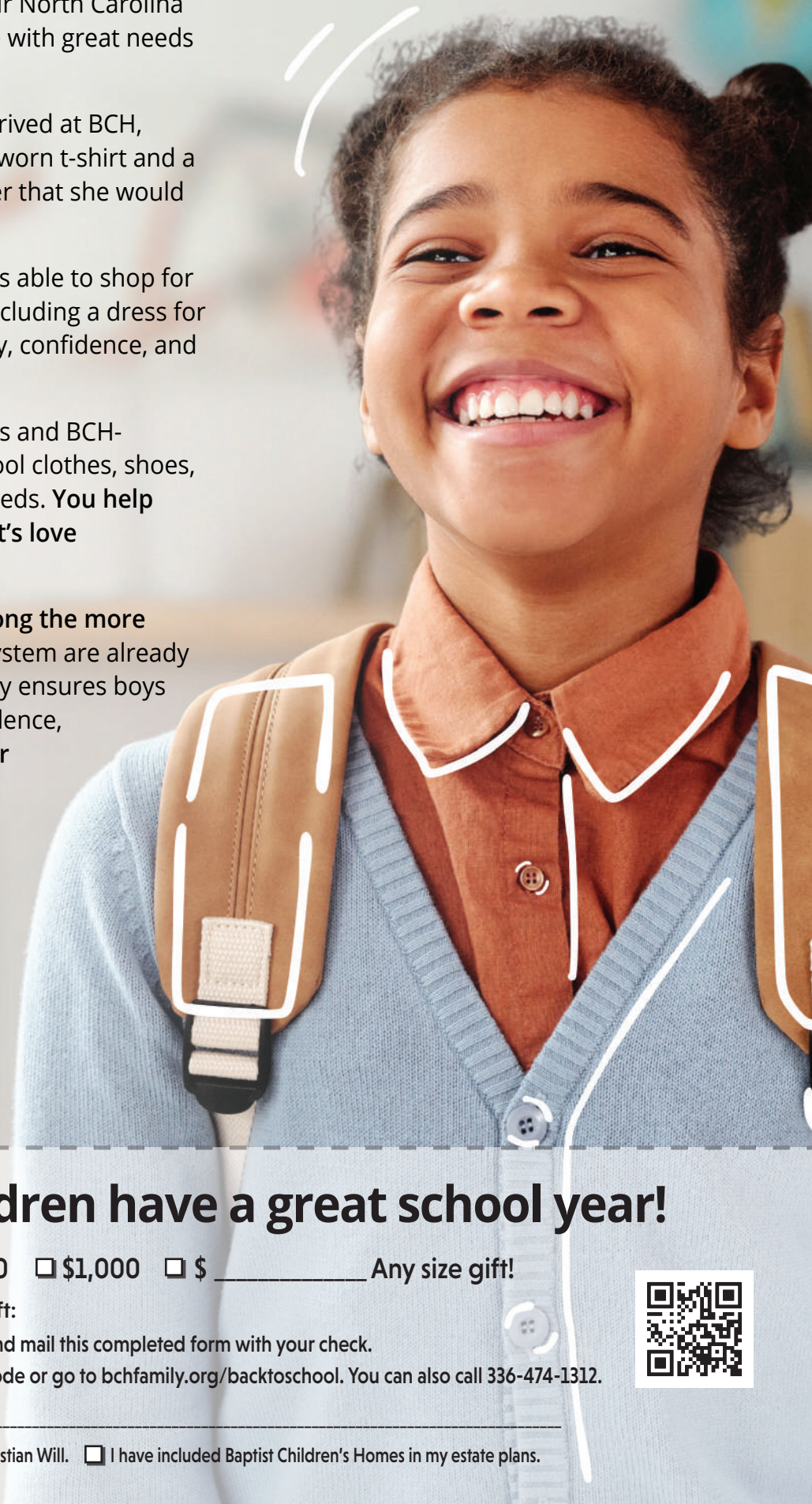
Thanks to the generosity of friends like you, Samantha was able to shop for school clothes. For the first time, she chose new outfits, including a dress for church. More importantly, she began to experience dignity, confidence, and the comfort of knowing someone cared.

Stories like Samantha's are unfolding in our cottage homes and BCH-licensed foster family homes. When you help provide school clothes, shoes, backpacks, and supplies, you meet more than practical needs. **You help create safety and trust so children can experience Christ's love through caring adults.**

School begins soon, and vulnerable children **who are among the more than 11,000 children in the North Carolina foster care** system are already arriving in our care. Your Back-to-School gift today not only ensures boys and girls have what they need to start the year with confidence, **but you create the opportunity for them to see that their story is not defined by hardship, but by hope in Christ.**

Please give and help a child like Samantha be ready for school.

Thank you for helping change children's stories, not just for a school year, but for a lifetime.



I want to help children have a great school year!

☐ \$75 ☐ \$150 ☐ \$300 ☐ \$600 ☐ \$1,000 ☐ \$ _____ Any size gift!

There are two ways you can make your gift:

- 1) By Check: Please use the enclosed envelope and mail this completed form with your check.
- 2) By Credit Card: Give online scanning the QR code or go to bchfamily.org/backtoschool. You can also call 336-474-1312.

I want to receive ministry updates and more. My email: _____

☐ Contact me with information on how to prepare a Christian Will. ☐ I have included Baptist Children's Homes in my estate plans.

