

# THE COMMUNICATOR

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Neighbors

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March 2011

## Willis Denny and Oscar Whitaker

In the early 40's Oscar Whitaker worked summers curing tobacco in Canada. With the \$700.00 he had saved he bought 126 acres of land two miles west of Pilot Mtn. Mr. Willis Denny's farm joined the Whitakers farm. Mr. Denny came to Mr. Whitaker and said, "You've bought some very poor land. The broom straw we see is the only thing that will grow there. You'll need to turn the land at least 6" deep. You can't get that deep with a mule. If you like I'll turn your land with my tractor. With good crop rotation and the right fertilizer your farm can be profitable." Oscar also shared his chicken litter fertilizer with the Denny's.

Swapping equipment and labor was a necessity in the world of farming 70 years ago. Farmers had to share to make ends meet. Teenager son's Van and Billy Whitaker and Dwight Denny were hard workers. Willis Denny could have chosen not to be a good neighbor. He chose to reach out and be like Barnabas. On Mr. Denny's farm is an oak tree over 450 years old. Descendants Ezra and Zachariah Denny fought at Gettysburg and Zachariah is buried there. A home under the huge oak was built in the 1850's. Whitaker Chapel Methodist started in the house. The present day site of the church was donated by the Denny's. We must be our Brother's keeper.

## Elkin Jaycees

Elkin's Jaycees Charter is 70 years old, one of our state's oldest. Former President Joe Walker says records document 66 known presidents. Friend Lewis Alexander led the group in 1951. Mr. Lewis is 91. Joe and Gambill Aldridge are leading a re-initialization of this outstanding community service provider. Way to go!

## Regional Tourism

The most significant area for economic development in the Yadkin Valley is capitalizing on the tourism potential. A Mt. Airy Chamber of Commerce report indicates a 27% increase in lodging occupancy tax collections in 2010 over 2009. 76,000 visited Mt. Airy Visitors Center, 18,000 toured the Regional Museum of History and over 55,000 stopped by the Andy Griffith Museum during its first year. A special word of praise to Emmett Forrest and the Surry Arts Council for securing the funds to build the facility that houses the Andy/Mayberry memorabilia collection, by far the world's most prized collection. The Forrest family has gifted Emmett's efforts to the Arts Council.

155,000 guests attend the Chamber's Autumn Leaves Festival and over 30,000 visit Mt. Airy for the Arts Council's Mayberry Days. Tourism brought over \$86.79 million to Surry County in 2009.

## Yadkin Valley General Store

Phillip and Jean Lyles own our special Yadkin Valley General Store. It opened in 2004 and is a monumental success in downtown Elkin. Name a cooking and baking ingredient and our Yadkin Valley General has it. Stephanie Holbrook and Suzanne Wray are outstanding customer service specialists. Inscribed in a recent thank you note from Phillip was this quote:

For mem'ry has painted this perfect day with colors that never fade. And we find at the end of a perfect day the soul of a friend we've made.

Carrie Jacobs Bond

**Look for the "Communicator" on neighbors website at [neighborsstores.com](http://neighborsstores.com). Click on "Communicator" and the issue you would like to read.**

## **Stephen Creech**

East Surry Little Leaguer Stephen was opening the door for guests at the Armfield Athletic Center recently. Two of his guests were grandpa and grandma, Joe and Glenda Creech. Stephens act of kindness and great smile make a good impression. His baseball uniform said he was looking forward to Saturday morning practice. His aunt, Andrea Creech, is an outstanding teacher at Tharrington Elem. School in Mt. Airy. We also praise Stephen's parents, Dawn and Marty Creech, coaches and teachers for teaching manners and courtesy.

## **Boy Scout Sunday**

The Sunday that falls before February 8th each year is Boy Scout Sunday. This year, Troop 545 Pilot Mtn. Scout Master Donnie Diamond celebrated his 51st Scout Sunday. The late Wylie Love founded Troop 545 in 1955. Members have archived the coveted rank of Eagle. Troop 545 has 45 members. Jim and Tammy York's sons Taylor, Johnson and Thomas attained the Eagle rank. Nine assistant scoutmasters serve the troop. We praise and respect them. They are: Ronnie, Lee Cook, Curtis Holshouser, Chet Jessup, Robert Belinger, Stan King, Ronald Hooker, Jack George, and Dan Stone.

## **Jesse Atkins**

Proud mom and dad Anita and Jerry support Second Class Scout Jesse who recently received nine merit badges. One must earn 21 merit badges and complete an Eagle Project to become an Eagle Scout. Jesse's cars won the Pinewood Derby (race) four out of five years as a Cub Scout. He's also a Patriot Leader and received the Wylie Love 1st Year Scout Award.

## **Hoosiers**

This epic movie about tiny Indiana's Hickory High Schools impossible march to the State Championship in 1954 starred Head Coach Norman Dale and assistant Shooter. Dale is played by Gene Hackman and Shooter by Dennis Hopper. Coach

being banned from coaching years before and Shooter, once Hickory High's star player is a hopeless alcoholic and a current players dad. Dale challenged Shooter to get sober and become his assistant coach. The storybook, true saga ends with Hickory winning the coveted championship. Highlighted is the mutual benefit derived from Coach Dale's and Shooters relationship. Shooter's support of Dale gives Coach much needed credibility and community acceptance. Shooter's sobriety is a miracle and he becomes a vital assistant coach even coaching the team to a victory when Dale is disqualified for arguing with the referee. The value of receiving a second chance surfaces time and time again during the movie. Redemption, forgiveness, trust and hope abound in this tearful classic. It's a must see. Treat yourself to a great example of The Barnabas Way.

## **Coach Stuart Maynard**

Coach graduated from Dunn (NC) High School in 1939. His high school coach, Bill Averett, encouraged him to go to college and to consider Guilford College. His mom advised coach to go to Greensboro and, "See what it's like. If it doesn't work out you can always come home." The family, widowed mom and five brothers, had \$2.75 to their name. Coach left Dunn with the nest egg.

Coach and wife Ruth of 67 years live near Guilford College in Greensboro, NC. I'm amazed at his memory. He recently shared that he met Guilford's coach Block Smith on Saturday July 8, 1939 and that he got to Greensboro on Sunday, Sept. 10 at 12:00 noon after a bus ride from Raleigh. He also graduated with no college debt by working summers, work study during the school year and scholarships. Ruth and Coach were married in 1943.

## **Ira and Katie Morris**

Our dear friends have a beautiful new home on the south side of the Brushy Mtn. 8 miles from Wilkesboro in Wilkes County. It faces the south so as to benefit from the radiant heat of the sun. On clear days, looking south through awesome bay windows, one can see the high- rise buildings in Charlotte, NC.

## Mary Rowe

We were honored to celebrate the life of Mrs. Rowe at her beloved 1st Baptist Church of Mt. Airy. She chose to highlight her ceremony bulletin with this quote:

It's not a plan we create that determines our fulfillment. It's what we let God do in the plan of his choosing.

Glaphre Gilliland

This listing did not originate with Mary Rowe but was something she prized and sought to instill in her children. They were among the items kept in a special place and were read at her funeral.

### Teen Commandments

1. Don't let our parents down; they brought us up.
2. Choose our companions with care; we become what they are.
3. Be master of our habits, or they will master us.
4. Treasure our time. Don't spend it; invest it.
5. Stand for something or we will fall for anything.
6. Select only a date who will make a good mate.
7. See what we can do for others, not what they can do for us.
8. Guard our thoughts; what we think, we are.
9. Don't fill up on the world's crumbs; feed our soul on the Living Bread.
10. Give our all for Christ. He give His all for us.

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The kind of commitment I find among the best performers across virtually every field is a single-minded passion for what they do, an unwavering desire for excellence in the way they think and the way they work. Genuine confidence is what launches us out of bed in the morning, and through our day with a spring in our step.

Jim Collins

## Maple Ridge Apartments

We share this "thank you" that we received after sharing fruit baskets in Elkin. Forty beneficiaries sign the note:

Dear WIFM/Neighbors:

I am Jo Ann Ahrens the site manager at Maple Ridge and Elk Court Apartments in Elkin. I wanted to thank you so much for the wonderful fruit that you brought to the tenants. It was such a blessing to them all. Many of my tenants would not have had fresh fruit had it not been for your generosity. I had taken a few days off for Christmas and when I came back the tenants couldn't stop telling me about the bag of fruit that you had brought them. I have enclosed a thank you that the tenants wanted you to have. I can assure you that it is truly heart felt. Your gift was truly a Christmas blessing. Thank you so much for all you do in our community.

Sincerely,  
Jo Ann Ahrens

### **Always Give Our Best— And We'll Never Fail**

The famous attorney Edward Bennett Williams rarely lost a case. On one occasion, though, after a particularly tough case, a reporter asked him how it felt to lose. Managers can learn a lot from Williams' reply: "When I come out of a courtroom, I never feel like I've lost, because I always give my client my best. If we give our best, we don't lose. The case may be lost, but I don't lose."

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I find that it is not the circumstances in which we are placed, but the spirit in which we face them, that constitutes comfort.

Elizabeth T. King

As long as we have some definite idea about or some hope in the future, we cannot really be serious with the moment that exists right now.

Suzuki Roshi

## Barney Hall

Elkin native Barney Hall got his start in radio at WIFM in 1951. Today he's the voice of MRN-Motor Racing Network, owned by Nascar. For 39 weekends each year he'll talk racing and share the ends and outs of stock car racing. Nascar's founder, the late Bill France Sr., heard Barney's velvet voice at the Bristol Motor Speedway in 1959 and asked if he planned to attend the next Daytona 500. Barney said "I don't know" because he did not have enough money to get to Daytona. Mr. France said, "We need a P.A. announcer and I like your voice. I'll give you \$75.00 and gas money to do the Daytona 500 if you'll come." That was Barney's big break. Barney said, "Gas was 24 cents a gallon."

Over the years his good friend and superstar driver was David Pearson. They shared meals together the night before each race. David won many races for Glenn Wood Racing of Stuart, VA. Pres. George W. Bush joined Barney in the studio at Daytona and took Barney's microphone to start the race. Avid fans always call corrections in when Barney makes a mistake. He welcomes the help. It lets him know people care and are listening.

Barney says local news and sports drive the success of all local radio stations. Hopefully Barney will join WIFM's special guest list. He came to us 60 years ago. Barney said it helps to have a good sense of humor and to be humble.

## Bill Hall

Retired Surry County teacher, coach and principal Bill Hall lifts our spirits as we see his face or hear his name. A Flat Rock native, he credits Donald Hemming's as being a saint and benevolent benefactor. "Every family in Flat Rock has been lifted by Donald. My family survived many challenges with his help. He does so much and does it quietly."

A good friend recently shared that Bill Hall recommended him for a great job that was a life defining moment. "I really needed a second chance and Bill Hall stood up for me in my absence. I got the job solely on Bill's assessment of my credentials and potential.

## Bo

Bo owns Frank and Bo's Convenience Store on N. Bridge St. in Elkin. He supports our Elkin Rescue Squad Charity Golf Tournament and loves to cat fish. I've been looking for an opportunity to repay support. I stopped with a bag of P-Nut Butter D-Lite recently and he said, "Gary, I need a favor." That was the opening I needed. His K1 kerosene pump was not functioning. I said, "Let me make a call." I called Jerry Atkins and shared our need for immediate help. Jerry shared that Grayson Boles was in Elkin and could offer a quick fix with a can of WD-40 on the pump meter gears. I responded without hesitation because Bo and I have a relationship. My timing was perfect and Grayson Boles' proximity to Bo's was fortuitous. We must be looking for an opportunity to help others. Instead of praying to be blessed we must pray to be a blessing. Thanks Bo, Jerry and Grayson.

## Lupe Chavez

Lupe came to the U.S. in 1986. Small communities in Mexico only offered K-8 grades. He migrated to Florida and worked on vegetable farms hoping to save money to go back to Mexico and finish his education. He moved to Wilkes Co. and then to Surry. Today he owns a construction framing company and lives in Pilot Mtn. with wife, Yadira and children. The family enjoys coaching, playing and watching soccer.

Lupe is a faithful everyday customer at several Neighbors Stores and we enjoy sharing at early morning exercise at the Armfield Center. I'm inspired by his family values, work ethic, vision and hope.

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The purpose of knowledge is to liberate the person from restrictive limits while simultaneously maintaining contact with the perceptible and ponderable universe.

Wade Nobles

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## Hampton Inn

Charlotte and I stayed at a Hampton Inn near Mt. Vernon, VA. recently. During breakfast the food service supervisor Yancey approached Charlotte and said, "Do you have any suggestions about how we can improve our food service." Just think of how successful our retail businesses could be should we capture Yancey's servants heart. We also met several housekeeping personnel who had adopted a service before self attitude.

## Daytona 500

Twenty-year-old Trevor Bayne drove his #21 Wood Bros. Ford to the biggest upset in the history of motorsports. Barney Hall of MRN said the odds were probably 100-1 for Trevor to win. It was only his third Nascar Sprint race. The Wood Brothers had Nascar's fastest cars in the 60's and 70's and last won the Daytona 500 in 1976. David Pearson was their superstar driver. Trevor was on Fox News and said a portion of his winnings would go to support friends who are serving missions in foreign countries. There is so much good today.

## Pilot Mtn. Friends Meeting

Friends Max Carter, Brent McKinney, Hugh Mill, and I serve as lay volunteer ministers at Pilot Mtn. Friends. We are all Quakers and are members of local Friends Meeting. Last Sunday I shared Barnabas' journey. His major contributions during the rise of Christianity in the first century A.D. was promoting Paul's preaching, giving people a second chance, and looking for the best in people. He usually served in the shadows as others took the stage. In essence, Paul had a public face while Barnabas had a private face.

Should you live nearby and are looking for a church that believes there is that of God in everyone and where all are welcomed, come to Pilot Mtn. Friends at 603 W. Main St. at 11:00 a.m. every Sunday. You'll be accepted, appreciated and honored.

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The harder we work, the luckier we get.  
Gary Player

## The Copper Pot

Greg and Tracy Hiatt recently opened The Copper Pot Restaurant at Exit 100/Hwy. 89 and I-77. The Mt. Airy Chamber of Commerce, it's ambassadors and Mayor Debra Cochran welcomed the Copper Pot's staff with an official ribbon cutting. I predict significant success as the beneficiary of Greg's awesome hope, faith and enthusiasm. When Greg prayed for God's will and guidance, we could sense a powerful, spiritual presence. With unconditional resolve to meet the challenges of business, Greg asked God to join as a partner. There was no pretense or hedging. Total commitment, without reservation is the everyday blessing. The restaurant hours are Monday-Thursday, 6:00-8:00, Friday and Saturday, 6:00-9:00 and closed on Sunday. Please stop and enjoy the Copper Pot blessing.

## Johnny Niemiec

Dave Odom and I visited Harris' Leatherworks recently. As we strolled through the custom bridle and halter section, David stopped to chat with Johnny Niemiec who shared that he joined the Harris' in 1981 when he was 14. He worked in stables, mowed yards, cut trees and did whatever Ralph needed. Today he's a supervisor and loves his career. The Harris' call him their "master fixer." He can repair anything that runs. Said his dad is a computer whiz and that grandpa Creed taught Johnny to use his hands. He also says the Harris' are also master mechanics. Johnny's 30 year career has been, is and will be mutually beneficial for all.

## What We Want

Each Friday morning, friends gather at the Sela Builders Office in Elkin for Men's Bible Study. David Morrison of the Elkin Valley Baptist Church is our leader. Our sessions are led on DVD by Patrick Marley of Orlando, Florida. Charlotte and other wives provide pastries. On one occasion Max Spain and Jack Gentry cooked sausage, gravy, biscuits and scrambled eggs. In a recent session Mr. Marley said the all of us want three things. We want a cause to live for, a partner to share that cause, and a system for achieving that goal. Our 6:30 a.m. sharing is meaningful and bountiful. We've made new friends and grown in knowledge and spirituality.

## **Selling sunshine Tony Hartl**

- A. Hide not our talents, they for use are made. What's a sundial in the shade. B. Franklin
- B. Teach me not to proffer, nor receive cheap praise. King George V
- C. The more we praise and celebrate our lives, the more there is in life to celebrate. Oprah
- D. Live so that when our children think of fairness and integrity, they think of us. H. Jackson Brown, Jr.
- E. With integrity we have nothing to fear, since we have nothing to hide. Zig Ziglar
- F. No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted. Aesop'
- G. How we do something is how we do everything.
- H. One who knows how to show and accept kindness will be a friend better than any possession. Sophocles
- I. Players win games, teams win championships. Bill Taylor
- J. Life is not a dress rehearsal. Rose Tremain
- K. It's not what we do but what we do not do for which we are accountable. Moliere
- L. Energy and persistence conquer all things. B. Franklin
- M. Keep away from people who belittle our ambitions. M. Twain
- N. Great achievement is born of great sacrifice and is never the result of selfishness. Napoleon Hill

## **Community Dinner**

Every Monday at 6:00 p.m. friends join each other at the Charles Stone Library for a hot meal provided by community churches. After the meal there is cleaning up and putting away tables and chairs. I noticed Thomas diligently stacking metal chairs on a dolly. As I was doing nothing I asked, "Do you need some help." Thomas looked at me as one not likely to be of much help but said, "Yes, but only after I give you proper training. For several minutes he shared every step of how to load 20 metal chairs on the dolly. He showed the front, the back and how to pick up the chairs. After a few minor blunders I got the hang of it and turned into a pretty good hand. As I filled one 20 chair dolly Thomas did 6. Then came the tables. I learned to break down the tables

and place them in the storage area. On my next visit I could be a good helper. Thomas is an awesome teacher. He insisted that I pay attention and do as I was showed and told.

## **Ernest Wood**

Friend Robert Moore and I share during our early morning exercise. His dad and mom were Joe Willie and Lucy, and, with brothers and sisters grew up farming in Westfield on the Earnest and Daisy Wood farm. Robert said Mr. wood was good to his family and enhanced the value of the Moore's work that enabled his parents to buy their own farm. I enjoy hearing stories of how folks helped others. It is in giving that we receive. Ernest and Daisy Wood was the dad of Mack and Tyco Wood and the granddad of Tyco Jr. So now we know several generations of good people.

## **Slavery**

This awful exploitation has existed forever and is alive today. Owning humans is strictly for financial gain. In the 16th & 17th centuries more than 11 million Africans were taken from Africa and placed in South America, the West Indies and America. The workers drove the sugar business. Sugar cane produced sugar that provided huge profits for Europeans. In the 1700's the average European consumed 4 pounds of sugar annually. Today that number is 150 pounds.

## **Principle**

It is no easy thing for a principle to become a man's own unless each day he maintains it and works it out in his life.

Epictetus

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People tend to praise others on what is important to the praise-giver. That doesn't work very well. Instead, tailor our praise to the style of the recipient. Praise according to what is important.

Stephen M. Shapiro

Success in life is a matter not so much of talent or opportunity as of concentration and perseverance.

Charles William Wendte

## Fire Towers

We stopped in Cumberland VA. for the 11:00 church service at The Fitzgerald Memorial Bapt. Church. We were received by friendly, warm and loving people. Received a note from the minister thanking us for the P-Nut Butter D-Lite. We'll go back someday. Beside the church is a metal forest fire watch tower. We used to see them often. Haven't seen one in years. I wonder if it's operational. Fifty miles west at Appomattox courthouse, Gen. Robert E. Lee surrendered his army of Northern Virginia to Ulysses Grant on April 9, 1865. They met at the McLean house. Lee came at 9:00 a.m. Grant at 9:30 a.m. Lee was on his way to Lynchburg to get food at the train stations when he was surrounded by 63,000 union troops. The Lynchburg-Richmond stage coach road came through Appomattox. The surrender took three days. Confederate troops were issued a voucher that afforded them food and free passage on any U.S. public transportation to help them get home. They did have to surrender their rifles but could keep any horse that they owned. Lee returned to Richmond where he owned a home. At his death, he was president of Washington College in Lexington, VA.

## Eyes Right Tom Massey

A man who was afraid of heights decided to try rappelling anyway. However, as he stood on the cliff about to launch himself over the edge, his fears came back to him and he faltered in his resolve. The sight of the rocks far below filled his vision.

Seeing him in distress, his experienced guide offered some concise advice. She said, "Don't look where you don't want to go." Focus on your goals, not on your fears. It's good advice for climbers—and leaders in any field.

## Skepticism

The skeptic does not mean he who doubts, but he who investigates or researches, as opposed to he who asserts and thinks he has found.

Miguel De Unamuno

## Believe in Possibilities

In these strenuous times, we are likely to become morbid and look constantly upon the dark side of life, and spend entirely too much time considering and brooding over what we can't do, rather than what we can do, and instead of growing morose and despondent over opportunities that are shut from us, let us rejoice at the many unexplored fields in which there is unlimited fame and fortune to the successful explorer.

George Washington Carver

## Solve Our Problems

Most managers are buried by problems every day; and every time we solve one, another crops up in its place. To get a better perspective on this, remember this classic Zen tale:

A man tells a Zen master, "I have a problem."

The Zen master says, "I know you have a problem."

Surprised, the man asks how the Zen master knew he had a problem. The master replies, "Because you have 83 problems."

"How do you know that?" asks the man.

"Because everybody always has 83 problems," replies the master.

"Well, what am I supposed to do about these problems?" asks the man.

"Solve them," says the Zen master. "Then, you will receive other problems, because everyone, at any given time, has 83 problems. Some people actually have 84 problems. The 84th problem is believing that we shouldn't have 83 problems."

Larry Wilson

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*We sometimes speak of winning reputation as though it were the final goal. The truth is contrary to this. Reputation is a reward, to be sure, but it is really the beginning, not the end of an endeavor. It should not be the signal for a let down, but rather, a reminder that the standards which won recognition can never again be lowered. From him who gives much—much is forever expected.*

Alvan Macauley

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