

THE COMMUNICATOR

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Mr. William Friday's North Carolina People

Hundreds gathered in Chapel Hill on April 14th to honor Mr. Friday's 40 years of leading UNC TV's North Carolina People's. Guests are chosen, invited to Chapel Hill for the taping and share with Mr. Friday for 30 minutes. Every invited guest has accepted his invitation. Folks come from all walks of life and are humbled by the opportunity. Honored guests marvel at his intense interest in them, how they feel so special and that the interview is life's quickest 30 minutes. He only asks questions the honoree can credibly answer and that encourages them to share their hope, experience and vision. Mr. Friday's presence lifts spirits, gives praise and celebrates one's journey.

Mr. Friday led the University of North Carolina from 1956 to 1986. He was involved in the establishment of UNC-TV in 1951 and is revered and appreciated as one of America's most honorable servants and contributors. We've been friends since 1995. He challenged me to be an advocate for our community, to listen to others and to honor our heroes. Mr. Friday looks for the best in others and expects us to exceed our potential. He champions education, diversity and the eradication of poverty. He sees that of God in everyone.

Friendship is born at that moment when one person says to another, "What, You, too? I thought I was the only one."

C.S. Lewis

Mt. Airy Sports Hall of Fame

We honor our superstars every April. The 8th class included the late Johnny Gruble (football), Buster Cox (football), Derek Slate (tennis), Terry Pruett (administration) and Ronald Boyles (coach, sponsor and fan). Over 200 family and friends gathered at the Andy Griffith Playhouse and the Hall of Fame monument for the ceremony. The City of Mt. Airy provided the refreshments and Hall of Fame board members are Ben Cooke, David Beal, Scott Kniskern, Jon Cawley, Buzz Snyder, Rondale Ratcliffe, Gary Pruett, Deborah Cochran, Barbara Jones and Catrina Alexander. Parks & Recreation Director Catrina Alexander organized the selection ceremony. We celebrate the former inductees, this year's class, board members, support staff, family and friends.

Inheritance

A good friend has been quite successful, had a good job at Reynolds, managed his money and is comfortable in retirement. During a recent chat he shared who would inherit his good fortune. "I have several nephews and nieces. Several have been good stewards, are frugal and thrifty and have money in savings. Several are poor managers and have squandered all they've made. My will passes my savings to those who've saved. Those with no savings will be bypassed. That's fair. Those who have will have more. They already know. Guess what? My intentions have not changed their behaviors. The spendthrifts still live paycheck to paycheck."

Leslie Hooper

Leslie, standout Science teacher at Surry Central High School, was a recent guest on People Doing Good for Others. She became a professional educator after discovering that she had chosen an occupation she did not enjoy. She returned to school, obtained her teaching certification and thoroughly enjoys her passion for leading young students. She's currently Surry Central Teacher of the Year. She's married to WIFM's Sports Director, Joel Hooper. She attended Elkin High School, graduated from ASU and grew up on a farm in State Road. Her parents are Gilvin and Roberta Guyer.

Our interview certainly revealed her love for science and teaching. She included a laminated business card with her "thank you" note. Saying "thanks" matters and including a business card says, "I'm proud of my profession, my school and I'm accessible." Upon receiving her note I called Surry County Schools Superintendent Dr. Ashley Hinson and shared my appreciation for his stalwart teacher. Dr. Hinson said he would encourage all staff members to get and carry business cards. Thanks Leslie and Dr. Hinson.

Target

Granddaughter Mayley had her 1st birthday on March 20th. Charlotte bought her a big wagon with a canopy. We drove to Lynchburg with the wagon unassembled in a huge box. After cake, soda and candles, Alan, grandson Travis and Mayley, tools in hand, began assembly. Alan and Travis are master fixers. Upon completion we discovered that the canopies were missing. We were all disappointed. Kyle called the local Target and shared our dilemma. The service provider stated, "Come over and we'll give you the missing parts." Upon arriving at the local Target, Kyle and Charlotte presented the credit card used in the purchase. The attendant

stated, "You purchased the wagon in Winston-Salem. It was not on sale. We have it on sale today and I'll refund to you the 'on sale' savings." Wow, what an awesome experience. With refund and canopy in hand, the ladies returned home and Alan and Travis completed the assembly. Way to go, Charlotte, Travis, Alan, Kyle, Mayley and Target.

Adrienne and Norita

Dr. Adrienne Israel, Academic Dean at Guilford College, and friend Norita Sparks shared at Pilot Mtn. Friends Meeting on April 10th. Dr. Israel challenged us not to worry, to humble ourselves before God and live a life of service. Before leaving Dr. Flippin's, Dr. Israel shared that she and friend Mrs. Speaks serve the Wells Memorial Church of God in Christ in Greensboro and that Norita directs their music at the church. I asked, "Norita, please do a solo for us." She agreed and at the end of our service Norita sang, acapella, "What a Friend We Have in Jesus." It was totally awesome. Adrienne and Norita were truly a blessing. Did we ever get lucky. We must ask to have more sometimes. Norita has a priceless talent and she's willing to share it.

Gunny Morris Great Dane

Ira & Katie Morris have a new Great Dane named Gunny. They love animals and have parented several wonderful puppy friends. Gunner was born in Hampton, SC and is 5 months old and weighs 55 lbs. A unique feature about a Great Dane is that he requires constant proximity to humans. They'll follow their caregiver from room to room. They must be near their companion constantly. Ira always gives me educational tips and I look forward to our sharing.

Mrs. Emily Antonnechia

Mrs. Emily teaches life skills to 8th graders at Pilot Mtn. Middle School. Grandson Travis Bohr is a student in her class. I was asked to share "Success Attributes" for future employment. I attended two 40-minute classes and each class had twenty students. I challenged these youngsters to find a career they love, write their goals, have good character, become life-long learners, develop good communication skills and have a "can-do" attitude. Other meaningful attributes were:

1. Be on time.
2. Do what we say.
3. Day-Timer habit.
4. Be enthusiastic.
5. Encourage others.
6. Volunteer to serve.
7. Develop public speaking skills.
8. Honor local heroes.

Teacher icon Mrs. Bullington stopped me in the hall to say that Travis is assisting Mr. Chilton in building a wheelchair for her disabled puppy. The animal's hind legs are paralyzed. Travis is a kind, loving young man and he has a keen sense of doing good for others. His smile lifts many spirits. He will enter the medical field. He enjoys helping Granma Charlotte do charity and visit the elderly and shut-ins.

Point of Apology

During Dr. Adrienne Israel's visit to Pilot Mtn., I overheard a new assessment. Several guests were discussing the perils of a church congregation split. Adrienne said, "The two splits were so angry that they could not get to the point of apology." Oh, how often we hear of church splits. I once visited two identical churches near the Blue Ridge Parkway that are twenty feet apart. We must always be willing to make-up.

A.A.'s steps are:

8. Make a list of all people we have harmed and be willing to make amends to them all.
9. Make direct remarks to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would prejudice them or others.

Eric Jessup and Stephen Priddy

Best friends grew up together and attended Mt. Airy High School. Both wrestled and are now high school teachers and wrestling coaches. Stephen at Surry Central and Eric at North Surry. Their wrestling programs are our area's best. Twice a year they face-off as rival coaches as their teams battle each other. They share strategy, tactics and training skills and match plans. Off the mat they are best friends and respect each other dearly. They were my guests on People Doing Good for Others. Their mutual admiration was so appealing. They pull for each other when they are not opponents and talk to each other by phone every night. They also credit each other for being each other's best teacher. Seeing them side-by-side in our recording studio was a sight to behold and a fond memory. Honorable souls whose challenge and make each other better. Their followers benefit from their serendipitous careers.

Our State Magazine

Buck Faw remembers Our State Magazine being called "The State" in the '30's. Each issue featured several pages of relevant questions about North Carolina. A Sunday afternoon ritual at Buck's home in N. Wilkesboro was Buck's dad, Robert asking his children the questions found in the magazine. Much knowledge and education came from learning current events that revealed the answers. Buck said, "Dad expected me to master the quiz."

Tom Childress

Tom grew up on Mitchell St. in Mt. Airy, graduated from Mt. Airy High School and was a star basketball player whose team was 25-0 and won the 3A State Championship, was a top student and graduated from Catawba College. He and wife Susan have four children and 12 grandchildren and he is Senior V.P. at Catawba.

He's also respected as a great public speaker. During a recent chat, I asked the keys to being an outstanding speaker. These rules are essential.

1. Choose topics that we know and have a passion to share.
2. Expect to be anxious, learn to overcome the fear.
3. Prepare, practice and make notes.
4. Know that the audience is on our side, they want to learn and grow.
5. Smile a lot.
6. Be humble and self-effacing.

I Heard It

We meet WIFM clients at our Jonesville Bojangle's. I was early one morning and dining room attendant Mandy said, "Mr. York, Richard asked if you want your coffee while you wait." Richard takes our orders. Wow, was I impressed. Of course, I said yes and Mandy returned with my coffee. Guest Phillip Lyles came shortly and we walked to Richard's station. We ordered biscuits, orange juice and coffee. Tina walked by, picked up our juice cartons, shook them and said, "I shake these so the pulp is mixed well." We were totally wowed!

I thought "this is too good to pass up and called Danny Hall at WIFM. He put me on the air and I told my Bojangle's experience. Everyone needs to hear this customer service odyssey.

After breakfast I wanted to share our experience with sixteen year manager,

Tim Gurganus. I knew he was off on Thursday and would be playing golf so I called Bojangle's and asked Linda Elder to have him call when he checked on the store. He called at 2:00 p.m. I said, "Tim, let me tell you my service experience at the store this morning." He said, "You don't have to tell me, I heard you on my car radio on the way to the golf course. The hair on my arms stood on end." Gosh, how lucky could a station owner be. To have his store's superstar experience and have our sponsor hear it live. What a thrill. That's why we do what we do. Many times great rewards follow our efforts, to celebrate those who do good for others. Jonesville Bojangle's is one of America's absolute best service providers.

Humility

In a recent service, Philippians 2:1-5 was highlighted. In Christ we find encouragement, consolation, love, sharing, compassion, and joy. We must avoid selfish ambition and conceit. In humility we regard others as better than self and look to the interests of others. Be like Christ. Looking for examples of humility, I featured these servants.

1. John & Donna Jackson started the Gallery Group, an art studio and educational facility that serves special needs adults and their families.
2. Ann Hollar and Judy Flippin lead the life-skills class at Surry Central High School.
3. NCAA D-III All-Star Game paired Nationwide All-American players with special needs adult men.
4. Janice Bennett's granddaughter Bryanna Poe singing "Butterfly" at King Elementary School.
5. Jeffrey Ellis' service to First Baptist Church of Mt. Airy.
6. Ruby Holbrooks' service in Wilkes County.
7. Eric Jessup and Stephen Priddy's dedication to wrestling players and their families.

James Wilkes on Johnny Sanders

James and I were teammates at Guilford 50 years ago. He's a good man and friend and is known for his compassion and kindness. After reading about Johnny Sanders in our "Communicator," he sent an e-mail. James starred in football at Page High School in Greensboro. Mt. Airy and Page were bitter opponents in football. One of James' friends at Page said that Johnny Sanders was the hardest hitter he remembered in his years of football. He was like being run over by a Mack truck.

Johnny always gave his opponents lasting headaches. He was a year ahead of me at Mt. Airy and I was so happy to see him graduate. He starred at Catawba, married Sondra Inman, owns Sanders Electric and attends First Baptist Church.

Speak to Strangers

During our wait for the Governor at the Pittsburg Glass Works announcement in Elkin recently, I noticed a well-dressed man sitting alone. I walked over, spoke, and sat for a chat. He's John Phillips, an owner of Park Real Estate in Charlotte. He was involved in the Pittsburg Glass acquisition. He's also related to former Wachovia C.E.O., John Merlin. He shared that his father-in-law was raised in poverty and used a ROTC scholarship to go to college. Wachovia was John's only job and he always answers his own calls. John Merlin's career mattered to Wachovia and his service of benevolence significantly enhanced countless non-profits statewide. I look forward to learning more about John Phillips and meeting John Merlin.

I also called John the next day and told him about a significant c-store company's intentions to build 30 stores in Charlotte and that they may need a broker and site finder. By giving John a heads-up, he'll be willing to help us. It is in giving that we receive.

Things We Remember

Tom Childress shared this gem. His high school basketball coach, the legendary Sam Moir, had an endearing habit. All underclass players were called by their last name. Seniors were called by their first name. As a freshman, Tom Childress was the last player to make the team. With hard work and great coaching he became one of North Carolina's best players. He was the Granite Bears' best defender. His assignment was to guard our opponents best players. In the last three games on our march to the championship we averaged winning by 23 points per game. We were so good!

Julius Chambers

Mr. Chambers was Mr. Friday's guest on NC People in April. They've been friends for over 50 years. Mr. Chambers has led countless civil rights initiatives. After law school he started his practice by representing clients who had been denied service. He was the first pro bono advocate. Can we imagine being denied representation because of our color. That's how things were. I plan to call and ask Mr. Chambers for an interview.

Mr. Chambers was also N.C. Central Univ. President. The consolidated UNC President C.D. Spangler asked him to help Central and he did. Bill Friday called Mr. Chambers, "Great Spirit."

Hope Health Letter Good Advice

1. Give ourselves time to exercise or enjoy a hobby.
2. Listen to children laugh.
3. Focus on solutions not problems.
4. Gardening is great exercise.
5. Bagged salad mixes are less fresh than a head of lettuce.

Good Advice

1. Whining is for losers. Gratitude is for champions.
2. We can't talk our way out of a situation we behaved ourselves into. Steve Harrison
3. Humility is to make a right estimate of oneself.
4. Worry does not empty tomorrow of its sorrow, it empties today of its strength.
5. The more we share, the more we have.
6. 29% of all Americans volunteer.
7. Giving liberates the soul of the giver. Maya Angelou
8. A kind heart is a fountain of gladness.
9. What is done in love is done well. Van Gogh

Surry County Teacher and Principal of the Year

Surry County Schools announces the 2011 Teacher and Principal of the Year in April. This year's Teacher of the Year is Jonathan Amos, a history teacher at the Early College. Jonathan graduated from High Point Univ., has his Masters Degree and is National Board Certified. Surry's Principal of the Year is Bill Goins of North Surry High School. He is a 19-year veteran. His B.S. and M.S. are from A.S.U. North Surry is our county's largest school. Superintendent Dr. Ashley Hinson personally announced the high honor at school assemblies. Both winner's families surprised the honorees with their attendance. Several school board members and system leaders honored the recipients. We are grateful for our outstanding educators who dedicate their lives to students, families and community.

Surry County Tourism

Neighbors is training our people to give better service by providing seminars and tours on local history and landmark points of interest. Our first tour visited the N.C Granite Quarry, Ararat River Greenway and

the Brower Bridge, Andy Griffith Museum, Mt. Airy Visitors Center, the Mt. Airy Museum of Regional History and Old North State Winery. We also enjoyed a wonderful lunch at the Winery.

Fourteen Neighbors employees thoroughly benefitted from learning about landmarks that are significant tourist attractions. We aspire to be the most tourist friendly retailers in America. Our people are taking great pride in becoming providers of directions, knowledge and insight. "I don't know" answers are becoming, "Let me show you the highlights of our wonderful county and regional attractions."

The Bridge

Eddie Settle's Nu-Line Printing has a new publication called "The Bridge." In it's March 25th issue he featured "Life Lessons from Mom" by Cory Hunter Darden. Several of these lessons are:

1. Be nice to people.
2. Keep a good book going.
3. Never miss a funeral.
4. Look for the needs of others.
5. Keep friends who cheer us on.
6. Have a strong handshake.
7. Listen.
8. Never miss a Christmas service.
9. Embrace adversity.
10. Smile a lot and our heart will follow.

Dogs laugh, but they laugh with their tails.
What puts man in a higher state of evolution
is that he has got his laugh on the right end.
Max Eastman

The real measure of wealth is how much
we'd be worth if we lost all our money.
Author Unknown

Americans have more food to eat than any
other people and more diets to keep them
from eating it.
Author Unknown

THE CRACKED POT

A water bearer in India had two large pots, each hung on one end of a pole which he carried across his neck. One of the pots had a crack in it, and while the other pot was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water at the end of the long walk from the stream to the master's house, the cracked pot arrived only half full.

For a full two years this went on daily, with the bearer delivering only one and a half pots full of water to his master's house. Of course, the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments, perfect to the end for which it was made. But the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection, and miserable that it was able to accomplish only half of what it had been made to do. After two years of what it perceived to be bitter failure, it spoke to the water bearer one day by the stream.

"I am ashamed of myself, and I want to apologize to you."

"Why?" asked the bearer. "What are you ashamed of?"

"I have been able, for these past two years, to deliver only half my load because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your master's house. Because of my flaws, you have to do all of this work, and you don't get full value from your efforts," the pot said.

The water bearer felt sorry for the old cracked pot, and in his compassion he said, "As we return to the master's house, I want you to notice the beautiful flowers along the path."

Indeed, as they went up the hill, the old cracked pot took notice of the sun warming the beautiful wild flowers on the side of the path, and this cheered it some. But at the end of the trail, it still felt bad because it had leaked out half its load, and so again it apologized to the bearer for its failure.

The bearer said to the pot, "Did you notice that there were flowers only on your side of your path, but not on the other pot's side? That's because I have always known about your flaw, and I took advantage of it. I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day while we walk back from the stream, you've watered them. For two years I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate my master's table. Without you being just the way you are, he would not have this beauty to grace his house."

Each of us has our own unique flaws. We're all cracked pots. But if we will allow it, the Lord will use our flaws to grace His Father's table. So as we seek ways to minister together, and as God calls us to the tasks He has appointed, don't be afraid of our flaws. Acknowledge them, and allow Him to take advantage of them, and we, too, can be the cause of beauty in His pathway.

Learn to listen. Opportunity could be knocking at our door very softly.

Frank Tyger

In really difficult situations, sometimes we get the most interesting thinking.

James Mullen

The trouble with most people is that they think with their hopes or fears or wishes rather than with their minds.

Will Durant

Develop our talents. Only then can we love and serve our neighbor.

Robert McDermott

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