

THE COMMUNICATOR

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MAHS Class of 1961

A few members of the Mount Airy High School Class of 1961 gathered at Cross Creek Country Club for dinner, photos, and fellowship on Sept. 11. Our reunion's organizers were Ann Hope Franklin, Sandy McHone Shaffer, and Nancy Slate Moore.

The Class of 1961 had 140 members. Seventy-two are deceased. We were honored by the presence of:

- Lavinia Brown McMillian
- Ann Hope Franklin
- Rosalee Jarvis Patton
- Norma Haymore Bowen
- Phillip Hall
- Arlette Lambert Porter
- Shirley Martin Lynch
- Sandra Monday Hamlin
- Jim Sessoms
- Mickey Shore
- Janis Sparger Garner
- Gary York

Several superlatives from our class:

- 31 Honors graduates.
- No. 1 class rank: Phillip Stanley.
- Boys' basketball, 25-0 record, Coach Charles

Moir.

- Mr. MAHS: Joe Smith.
- Miss MAHS: Nancy Slate.
- Gary's favorite teacher: Mrs. Sydnor.
- Homecoming Queen: Judy Goad.
- School Board: Robert Smith, Marion Burke,

John Wolfe, Sam Hemric (chair), Henry Rowe, Bowman George.

- Superintendent: B.H. Tharrington.
- Principal: H.M. Finch

Ruby Lambert, 101

At the Mount Airy High School Class of 1961's 61-year reunion, I addressed friends with a tribute to Ruby Lambert, mother of Arlette Lambert Porter. My story:

In the summer of 1963, at my mother's urging, I became a classmate in a Dale Carnegie Course at the Reeves Community Center. Our group, mostly

Surry County business leaders, met weekly. Most of our training was toward becoming effective public speakers. For two hours weekly we would stand before our peers and tell stories from our past.

Most of us were terrified and embarrassed until Ruby Lambert took on the role of encourager and coach. Adults who could hardly speak finished the course with courage and eloquence. Mrs. Ruby literally transformed 25 aspirants from darkness to light. Ruby was our savior! This experience was life-changing.

I recently received an email from Mrs. Lambert. By way of explanation, our folks lived near White Plains. She's speaking about her father and my grandparents. Beulah was my late aunt. She wrote:

Dear Gary,

Remind your beautiful Charlotte that I am 101 and our relationship began with your grandparents and my parents. My daddy and your grandfather drove oil trucks.

Daddy was diagnosed as having silicosis and sent to Black Mountain. Your Grandfather and Grandmother York came to see us, and told us if we needed anything while he was gone to let them know. I do not recall any other neighbor doing this. I do remember the feeling of security this brought us. Turned out, Daddy had scar tissue from pneumonia in World War One.

I sold newspapers and the Yorks were my customers. I went there last so I could play with your Aunt Beulah and the boys. We would swing on the grapevine swings until pitch dark.

They would go Down East and bring back scuppernongs [grapes] which they shared with us. The apples didn't fall far from the tree; it's easy to see where your benevolence came from. I have followed your progress and I am so proud of you.

Danny Moorefield

Had not spoken to high school friend and Mount Airy High School basketball standout Danny Moorefield in 61 years. He quickly returned my call, and we shared our journeys. He retired from the U.S. Air Force and has earned six degrees in the education field.

Antioch United Methodist

Antioch United Methodist Church in south-central Alleghany County celebrated its annual homecoming on Sept. 18. Founded in 1846, the church sits off U.S. 21 near High Meadows, Old Beau, and Roaring Gap Golf Club. Currently it is led by the Rev. Dr. Richard Brinegar, a prominent veterinarian who lives and practices on Claremont Avenue in Elkin. Wife Anna is his most able helper at the church and in his practice.

Antioch United Methodist, in its 172nd blessed year, has 11 members. The homecoming service featured official bell ringer Harold Ogletree, candle lighter Paul Brinegar, organ music by Dr. Myra Cox, and bluegrass gospel music by the Strings Of Victory. The sermon by Dr. Brinegar focused on Nehemiah 1 and 6 and was entitled "A God-Centered, Purpose-Driven Life." The congregation was inspired by favorite hymns "Church In The Wildwood" and "I'll Fly Away."

We also were blessed by a wonderful meal catered by the Pines Restaurant of Sparta. Special guests, several family friends from Kernersville and China Grove, helped fill the cozy sanctuary to capacity. Dr. Brinegar invited me to capture the homecoming with photos.

Dr. Brinegar, an active Methodist since childhood, is involved in an intense Master of Divinity degree program at Duke University in Durham. Dr. Brinegar weekly has conversations with Dr. Will Wilimon, one of America's most respected orators and mentors. Daily I pull him up on YouTube and savor his intriguing and challenging sermons.

Mike Estes

We lost a good friend and family man on Sept. 12. Mike Estes and I met at Mount Airy High School in 1958. Seeing and hearing his voice would always lift one's spirits. His honesty, humility, dignity, and sense of reason gave us the influence and balance to make reasonable decisions. Time and time again, he chose to share his feelings about positions I was taking on matters. His family values and compassion showed me the way we are to do, be, and give.

Seeing him at Leon's was a great way to start a day. For years he was our unofficial officer at Neighbors No. 5 where wife Tammy was our night manager and Mike was our steady influence.

He had a great feeling for how hearts feel and need to keep going. He would share the innermost feelings of striving. He could get to the heart of the matter.

His health was a constant challenge. However, his will to endure gave him the resolve to finish strong and with compassion. Mike was all about caring and heart.

Special Guests

During wife Charlotte's bed-and-breakfast years, a favorite weekend group was an antique Corvette owners' club from around southeastern Virginia and Roanoke Rapids, N.C. We recently invited the club members to visit Pilot Mountain, and the Bud Erickson and Sam Harrison couples accepted, arriving on a Friday. We certainly enjoyed the fellowship.

The couples invited us to join them for Saturday-night dinner and they suggested going to The Depot, Surry's most-popular weekend eatery. Opened by the Freddy Snow family in 1985, The Depot provides excellent food; quick, effective service; and unique hospitality that consistently is the favorite choice for family dining. Freddy's father, the late Fred, was an incredibly hard worker and most successful at farming and developing land. Speaking to Freddy I said, "You are always here!" He answered, "I'm never not here!" It seems all successful leaders are always at the helm of their businesses.

An added attraction for our guests is the monthly cruise-in first staged in 2006. I'll treasure a most special moment on Saturday after lunch. In passing, Bud said, "This home has the best porch. It has a view of the crowd and cars that is the best I know."

I sure hope we can make this visit an annual return. Before their leaving on Sunday we extended a lifetime invitation.

Jack Betts Knows

Notable and renowned journalist Jack Betts shared his opinions daily in regional newspapers. During the 1960s-era controversy over erecting hydroelectric dams on the New River, his writings led senators and representatives to take charge and stop the damming of the world's second-oldest river.

We usually connect by telephone. In July he emailed to say he has turned from writing to making old-time and bluegrass music by playing the tenor guitar and upright bass. He's also a volunteer worker for the new Milepost Music Sunday concerts on the Blue Ridge Parkway. Due to his busy schedule, Jack wrote that he could not attend a Meeting of Worship in July when Ralph Levering was to speak.

"I'm a big admirer of Ralph," Jack wrote, "and have been since we were together for the 1962 (or was it 1963?) Boys' State gathering in Chapel Hill. I have followed his career in the more than half-century since and have always been struck by the depth of understanding and the reach of compassion and the respect for other people that the Levering family has shone over so many years."

White Plains

White Plains, a rural Surry County community, is home. Born in Mount Airy on Feb. 21, 1943, the son of Tom and Marian York, I attended White Plains School through the ninth grade, and graduated from Mount Airy High School in 1961. Many of my formative influences surrounded me and my parents in White Plains.

In 1955, I became a Winston-Salem Journal paperboy. I picked up my papers at Jesse Jones' store at the intersection of Highway 601 and Simpson Mill Road. Mr. Jones was my first hero. His dignity, humility, and honesty were unmatched. I remember his Masonic ring and calm demeanor. He was like a second dad, and had answers when asked.

At White Plains Friends Meeting every Sunday, I'd meet Allen Kallam, a farmer who lived on Siloam Road. His son Kerry was a peer; older son Steve was our area's best athlete. Allen Kallam was the most respected member of our church. When he spoke all listened. His oratory commanded respect.

In the fifth grade I met Swanson Richards, our high school coach, high school math teacher, and school mastermind. Although Weldon Reece was the principal, the answers came from Mr. Richards and seventh-grade teacher Mrs. Hurley Simpson. Mr. Richards assigned me odd jobs after school and became my mentor and role model. He became Dr. Richards in 1967.

Remembered My Name

Stopping by Elkin Funeral Service on N.C. 268 to pay my respects to the late Sam Couch's family, the front door opened as I approached and associates Keith Greene and Buster Swaim with huge smiles greeted me by first and last name. Wow! What a good feeling to be recognized.

Elkin Funeral Service is owned by Tim and Beth Hodges, its general manager is Hasten Wall, and most competent associates are Molli Jo Johnson, Ellauna Ginther, Newell Hauser, Jim Wolfe, Randy Tulbert, Rick Woodruff, and Craig Caudill.

Tim is a graduate of Gardner-Webb University and a member of the Elkin Rescue Squad Board of Directors, the Elkin Airport Board of Commissioners, and the Yadkin Valley Chamber of Commerce. He is an avid pilot and musician. He and wife Beth have three daughters: Haley, Kari, and Megan. They are members of Poplar Springs Baptist Church.

Pass It Forward

In 2005, the late Tom York invited Dale York and Garnett Beasley, loyal members of the White Plains Ruritan Club, for a commitment session. Tom, sensing his days might be short, counseled the men that

he wanted to leave shares of Lowe's Companies Inc. stock for the benefit of the White Plains community. They were challenged to only bequest the shares' growth and in time, should circumstances exist, a portion would be used to establish an educational endowment at Surry Community College to train persons aspiring to develop craft and trade skills.

Dad's vision was honestly and diligently administered by Dale and Garnett. In the ensuing years, the shares' value increased sixfold and \$75,000 went to the Surry Community College Foundation on Sept. 19. Mr. York can rest assured that his requests were followed to the tee. We are pleased that he trusted Dale and Garnett to fulfill his wishes. Thanks, men, and the White Plains Ruritans.

Floyd and Gene Rees

Been a regular at F. Rees Clothing Co. for 70 years. Downtown Mount Airy's most honorable establishment opened in 1946 after Floyd Rees' World War II officer duty. Owned today by Gene Rees, it continues to offer men's and women's wear to caring aspirants. Posted today on the upstairs step facings are these motivations:

- Eat Healthy
- Stay Strong
- Word Hard
- Laugh More
- Worry Less
- Love Often
- Be Happy
- Think Positively
- Exercise Daily
- Enjoy Life

The Communicator's Word Match Game

Match the word with its definition

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| 1. ____ abnegation | A. insult |
| 2. ____ acrid | B. bad |
| 3. ____ affluent | C. shun |
| 4. ____ affront | D. complaisant |
| 5. ____ august | E. common |
| 6. ____ cacophony | F. renounce |
| 7. ____ clandestine | G. noise |
| 8. ____ contumely | H. wanderer |
| 9. ____ eclectic | I. reluctant |
| 10. ____ egregious | J. scorn |
| 11. ____ enamored | K. sign |
| 12. ____ eschew | L. resourceful |
| 13. ____ facile | M. smooth |
| 14. ____ generic | N. clumsiness |
| 15. ____ harbinger | O. secret |
| 16. ____ ineptitude | P. well off |
| 17. ____ intrepid | Q. sharp |
| 18. ____ mellifluous | R. fearless |
| 19. ____ nomad | S. pretentious |
| 20. ____ ostentatious | T. fond |
| 21. ____ paradox | U. contradiction |
| 22. ____ reticent | V. dignified |

Answers are on Page 7.

Yadkin Chamber Investors

Every fourth Tuesday at noon, the Yadkin County Chamber of Commerce stages its celebrated Investors Luncheon at the Yadkin County Agricultural & Educational Center's banquet facility on the Surry Community College Yadkin Center campus in Yadkinville. Stevie Potts masterfully manages the 400-seat capacity venue started 30 years ago by the late Jimmy Hutchens.

The event is our region's most unique offering. The luncheon is free to any and all, the meal is sponsored by an area business, and the format includes a Yadkin Chamber meeting with reports from seven standing committees and meaningful motions for positive proposals. The meeting concludes with an opportunity for the event's sponsor to share his or her company values and initiatives. Chamber executives Bobby Todd and Jamie Johnston are incomparable in their staging of the event.

The gatherings usually attract 90 or more. It revolves around networking opportunities, free delicious lunch, and social enhancements. It's a must for new-to-the-area aspirants and those hoping to gain essential credibility. After each event, I'll have 10 or more pictures and greeting notes for new-made friends and renewed relationships. I advise newcomers to come early, seek out new relationships, stay late, exchange business cards, sit at a different table each month, wear a smile, ask lots of questions, and bring a new friend next month. Coming is a must.

Showing Respect

- One entering the front entrance of Cedar Ridge Elementary School off Highway 89 in north-west Surry County may see a granite monument that honors deceased faculty Principal Fred T. Goins, Principal Sharon Handy, and heralded school bus driver Mike Lowe. The school's cafeteria has a 100.0 health rating.

- A pole banner in Aiken, S.C., applauds character, sincerity, respect, self-control, responsibility, attentiveness, loyalty, courage, citizenship, truthfulness, patience, compassion, and forgiveness. Mom, Dad, and I moved to Aiken in the summer of 1953 for Dad's work as an electrician at the Savannah River Project. Sister Anne was born there on Nov. 15, 1954, and we returned to White Plains at Christmas of 1955.

- Celebrated tree farmers Harold and Wanda Swaim of Hamptonville, N.C. shared this powerful message: "My soul is renewed when we are out in the trees, Your Old Friends."

- The Hugh Chatham Memorial Hospital Foundation's annual benefit golf event netted \$83,000 on Aug. 18 at Cedarbrook Country Club. The event

director, Warren Bates, lauds a wonderful team. I first visited the event in August of 1998. The HCMH Foundation's first benefit tournament was staged in 1992. Other notable servants are Trustees Chair Terry Darnell, Foundation Board Chair Fred Chatham, and Director of Philanthropy Katee Hettleman. We are blessed to have Cedarbrook Country Club and its PGA Professional Zim Zimmerman for providing an unmatched golf venue.

Amanda

On five consecutive weekday mornings at 5:15 a.m., several loyal Armfield Recreation Center participants are greeted by associate Amanda Cook's pleasant smile, always early and never late. Her grandmother, Geneva Cheek, started the rich tradition in 2002.

Amanda also plays several other roles at Pilot Mountain's civic and recreation center, one being to post meaningful, inspirational messages on a lobby bulletin board. A recent posting is titled "50 Reasons to Exercise." Among them are:

- Lift one's mood.
- Build self-esteem.
- Keep body fit.
- Boost mental health.
- Boost immune system.
- Reduce stress.
- Make us feel happy.
- Has anti-aging benefits.
- Improves sleep.
- Improves muscle strength.
- Improves learning ability.
- Improves quality of life.
- Improves appetite.
- Helps with depression.
- Builds confidence.
- Sharpens memory.
- Lowers blood pressure.
- Fights dementia.

Congratulations

- Ben Felts, son of Mike and Jeannie of Carson Road in Pilot Mountain, N.C., is a career fireman in Aurora, Colorado. He started his journey as a volunteer.

- The late C.L. White shared this moment: "Soil & Water conservationist Fred Patterson drove up and asked to help us improve our erosion problem. We had no idea what he intended to do, but agreed to give him our support. The opportunity was a lifetime best decision!"

- Special thanks to Barbara Edmiston for extending a note to compliment my kind remarks during open worship and for sending her my photo ministry weekly.

Dr. Jim & Isabel Harrell

The late humanitarians, philanthropists, and kindred souls Dr. Jim and Isabel Harrell came, gave, and toiled to make this world a better place to live. He, an Elkin native, and she, a Methodist minister's daughter, are revered in countless ways. A plaque at Hugh Chatham Memorial Hospital's third floor states, "This patient tower is dedicated in honor of Dr. Jim and Isabel Harrell whose generosity, vision, and love of community inspired a successful multi-year capital campaign to expand the hospital, provide this tower, and fund the hospital's helipad. Dr. Harrell served as a trustee, then as a founding board chairman of the Hugh Chatham Memorial Hospital Foundation for 18 years."

Dr. Harrell honored me with his humanitarian acts of benevolence, counsel, and sage advice. More importantly, he gave me time that revealed important "how-to's" in life and how we are to do, give, and be. His willingness to share his experiences inspired me to pass along his acumen and vision.

His fund-raising abilities are legendary and form the foundation of how to best generate the means to help others along the way. Forever his way will lead giving and benevolence to a higher level of achievement. During his last years, I was the beneficiary of Dr. Jim's plans to pull people together for success that synergistic efforts yield. He was the master team builder. He stressed:

1. Embrace givers with thank-yous.
2. Understand givers' motives and passions.
3. Always ask.
4. Think big and smile.
5. Be the first at meetings.
6. Getting a "no" may be for now, not forever.
7. Seniors have money.
8. Always carry pledge and business cards.
9. Be on time, early and stay late.

Dr. Jim Harrell Sr.'s Ministries

Prior to his passing on March 6, 2017, Dr. Jim Harrell Sr. frequently invited me to his home in Elkin. I'm honored to share some of his wisdom:

- William Arthur Ward said, "Lose yourself in generous service and every day can be a most unusual day, a triumphant day, an abundantly rewarding day."

- Angels in disguise. Over time we will get to know others by their fruit that the Holy Spirit grows not only in them, but in us as well. The fruits are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. (Galatians 5:22-23. Gary, please take the time to get to know the people around us. When we allow ourselves to see the real fruit they possess, we may discover the angels in disguise all around us.

- Dr. Jim vowed, "Life is not warming ourselves

by the fire. Life is building the fire, and generosity is the match. If we want happiness for an hour, take a nap, but if we want happiness for a lifetime, help someone."

Claudette Weston

Mrs. Claudette Weston, a life-long resident of Forsyth County's Old Town community, prominent business owner, graduate of Guilford College, and renowned handwritten thank-you notes writer, was our guest recently on "People Doing Good For Others." She is interesting beyond compare. Our mutual friend, retired Goodwill Industries CEO Art Gibel, connected us, and I'll be forever grateful.

While at Guilford College, we shared Dr. Herb Appenzeller as mentor, counselor, and friend. They connected in 1955 and me in 1961. Thousands were the beneficiaries of Dr. Herb's senses of lifting the broken and aspiring.

Mrs. Weston and I were also admirers of Hugh Morton, Bill Friday, and Dave Odom. Enjoyed a story she shared about her 4-H project while in grammar school whereby she and a neighbor raised goats and won statewide awards with their animals. She fostered her civil-rights values and was a "Big House" Gaines ally.

Mrs. Weston ended our conversation by challenging me to:

- Laugh when we can.
- Let go of what we can't change.
- Hug sincerely.
- Forgive truthfully.
- Play hard.
- Take chances.
- Give everything we can.
- Have no regrets.
- Life is too short to be anything but happy.

Chick-fil-A

Mount Airy's Chick-fil-A restaurant at 2007 Rockford Street opened in September 2012. Mount Airy's franchise is owned by Chad and Reagan Tidd. Their children are Greer and Luke. Chad graduated from Clemson University and is a competitive runner, Christian, and totally devoted to Chick-fil-A.

Here are some facts about the company.

- There are 2,833 Chick-fil-A stores spread across every state except Hawaii, Alaska, and Vermont.

- Truett Cathy started the chain in 1946.
- All new units are opened on a Thursday.
- The soft-serve ice cream was developed by Truett Cathy in 1935.

- Being closed on Sunday is a rich tradition.
- In 2019, Newsweek magazine chose Chick-fil-A as the best in customer service.

Elkin's School Board

Elkin City Schools is one of three Local Education Agencies (LEAs) in Surry County. Its 1,000 students attend a K-5, middle school, and high school. Its system was chartered in 1946, and it is historically one of North Carolina's top-rated public school systems.

Members of the Elkin City Schools Board of Education are Frank Beals (chair), Dr. Richard Brinegar (vice-chair), Dr. Will Ballard, Ralph Beshears, and Larry Wagoner. Beshears and Wagoner are former educators.

Here are a few highlights from Elkin City Schools' illustrious history:

- Its football teams under Coach Richard Grisom won state 1A championships in 2002, 2003, 2005, and 2006. The Buckin' Elks' success is also heralded by the leadership of the legendary Head Football Coach John Charles. Punter Jeff Hayes starred at University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and with the Washington Redskins.
- Noted Morehead Scholars are Cuttino Alexander, Chandler Beals, and Madison Shoemaker. John Motley Morehead established the prestigious scholarship award in 1951.

May You Always Have...

At Surry Community College's administrative offices, a meaningful plaque encourages us. Here is its message:

May You Always Have

Enough happiness to keep you sweet.
Enough trials to keep you strong.
Enough sorrow to keep you human.
Enough hope to keep you happy.
Enough failure to keep you humble.
Enough success to keep you eager.
Enough friends to give you comfort.
Enough enthusiasm to look forward.
Enough faith to banish depression.
Enough determination to make each day better than yesterday.

Life Expectancy

Life expectancy in the United States is declining. Drug overdose deaths have been increasing, but the declines in life expectancy since 2019 are largely driven by the pandemic. COVID-19 deaths contributed to nearly three-fourths or 74% of the decline from 2019 to 2020 and 50% of the decline from 2020 to 2021. Other causes of death contributing to the decline in life expectancy from 2020 to 2021 include heart disease, chronic liver disease and cirrhosis, and suicide (2.1%).

Gleaning

The Bible's Book of Ruth tells the saga of Naomi, Ruth, and Boaz in the grain fields near Bethlehem. Upon returning home, Ruth chose to glean the fields owned by prominent farmer Boaz. Gleaning was a system of welfare for the poor. Gleaners could pick up spilled or unharvested grain from the fields for sustenance. Boaz, seeing favor in Ruth, instructed his farm staff to purposefully leave extra portions of grain for Ruth and her mother Naomi.

On a recent Sunday School lesson, I suggested several farms owned by farmers who are good to people. I mentioned Rudy Holbrook, Kester Sink, the Thomas Johnson family, the C.L. White family, Eddie and Brenda Brown family, Chad Bullington, and many others.

In the area around Rudy and Nikki Holbrook, when needs arise, they are miraculously filled. No one sees the Holbrooks helping; however, neighbors know who supplies the relief. Providing a good place to glean is a way of life for the vital few whose hearts yearn to provide for others.

John Freas

John Freas graduated from Walnut Cove High School and University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. In 1960 he was a member of a volunteer high school group known as the NC Volunteers. They spent the summer building housing for the indigent.

John and wife Mary live on Swaringen Road in Traphill. His career was in computer technology and social work. He's an avid beekeeper and has 60 beef cattle. His farm has been in his family since the late 1700s. This year's honey harvest was his best ever. Mary is a weaver and spinner. They are regulars at Elkin's Galloway Episcopal Church on West Main Street.

John frequently visits our Mount Airy Friends Meeting and is doing extensive writing about his peace testimony. Our Friends' stand on world peace is instrumental for his writings. Friends United Executive Dr. Colin Saxton, who lives in Newbury, Ore., is advising John.

John came to WIFM in 2006 seeking help to promote Galloway Peace Advisory. We became instant friends, and we so enjoy each other's company.

Frank Parker

Frank Parker is a 42-year veteran long-haul truck driver. He currently serves ABF. His first 21 years were with Insteel, which he highly praises. Insteel closed its trucking operations, however.

Frank has more than 3 million miles of safe driving record. We met at a Surry County Board of Commissioners meeting. His family lives off Red Brush Road.

On Giving

Paraphrased from the book "Simple Truths: Clear and Simple Guidance on the Big Issues in Life" by Kent Newbern, New World Library, copyright 2005

Giving is a miracle that can transform the heaviest of hearts. Two people, who moments before lived in separate worlds of private concerns, suddenly meet each other over a simple act of sharing. The world expands, a moment of goodness is created, and something new comes into being where before there was nothing. Too often we are blind to this everyday miracle. We build our lives around accumulation, and we weigh giving on the scales of self-interest. True giving does not subtract from what we have; it multiplies the effect we can have in the world.

Many people think of giving only in terms of grand gestures. They miss the simple openings of the heart that can be practiced anywhere with almost anyone. We can say hello to somebody everybody ignores. We can offer help to a neighbor. We can buy a bouquet of flowers and take it to a nursing home, or spend an extra minute talking to someone who needs our time. We can take ten dollars out of our pocket and give it to someone on the street. No praise, no hushed tones of holy generosity. Just give, smile, and walk away.

If we perform these simple acts, little by little we will start to understand the miracle of giving. We will begin to see the unprotected human heart and the honest smiles of human happiness. We will start to feel what is common among us, not what separates and differentiates us. Before long we will discover we have the power to create joy and happiness by our simplest gestures of caring and compassion. We will see we have the power to unlock the goodness in other people's hearts by sharing the goodness in ours. And, most of all, we will find the other givers, we will know them by their small acts, and they will recognize us by ours. We will become part of the community of humanity that trusts and shares and dares to reveal the softness of our hearts.

Once we become a giver, we will never be alone.

Do It Now

Most of us receive a request daily that we intend to answer in the affirmative. Usually they arrive 17 days before the event. Why do we procrastinate? All of us don't usually intend to wait. Do we have a more important thing on our minds? I admit to waiting and waiting and waiting. One thing for sure: we do our sender a huge favor when we immediately respond to any and all invitations. I guess it's human nature to pause before we respond. So think about it — a quick response could be our mantra.

I'm thinking about our Elkin Rescue Squad Charity Golf Tournament. We send a "Save the Date" letter 65 days before the date, and send our brochure/application at 60 and 30 days before the tournament. Looking back over the years, the traditional first response is a donation by Arnold Lakey of North Wilkesboro. A special thanks for his great example. So, do it now and maintain a hero status.

From Here And There

- A person's ability to forgive is in proportion to the greatness of his soul. Little men cannot forgive. —Richard L. Evans
- There are some who would rather lose a friend than lose an argument. —Richard L. Evans
- You cannot do wrong and feel right. —Ezra Taft Benson
- Parents can tell, but never teach unless they practice what they teach. —Arnold H. Glasow
- Each of us is part of the problem or part of the answer. —paraphrased from Eldridge Cleaver
- There is no such thing in human existence as being so high you're not responsible to anybody. —L.A. Appley
- He gives twice who gives quickly. —John Simpson
- When everybody thinks alike, nobody thinks very much. —Walter Lippman
- The best leaders are training leaders while they are leading. —Kara Goldin
- Never underestimate the power of dreams and the influence of the human spirit. The potential for greatness lives within each of us. —Wilma Rudolph

Mark Shields Makes His Mark

The late Mark Shields, a sharp-eyed, -tongued, and -elbowed analyst of American politics, passed away in June. He studied philosophy in college, but said he learned more, especially about concepts of leadership, during a two-year stint in the U.S. Marines. Interviewed on C-SPAN by Brian Lamb, Shields said some of his happiest moments in life were when he worked on political campaigns: "You think you are going to make a difference that's going to be better for the country, and especially for widows and orphans and people who don't even know your name and never will know your name. Boy, that's probably as good as it gets."

Word Match Answers

From Page 3

- | | | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. F | 6. G | 11. T | 16. N | 21. U |
| 2. Q | 7. O | 12. C | 17. R | 22. I |
| 3. D | 8. J | 13. D | 18. M | |
| 4. A. | 9. L | 14. E | 19. H | |
| 5. V | 10. B | 15. K | 20. S | |

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