

# THE COMMUNICATOR

Phone: (336) 835-2511

Email: [wifm@wifmradio.com](mailto:wifm@wifmradio.com)

Since January 1990

[www.WIFMRadio.com](http://www.WIFMRadio.com)

April 2024

## Dr. Todd Martin

We celebrate the 33 years in public education of Dr. Todd Martin as he retires on Feb. 29. He has been a champion for nonprofits, a community leader, and educator for children, schools, and families. He has served Yadkin County Schools since October 2013. His profound impact on Yadkin County Schools is unmatched and his legacy will serve as a blueprint for those to follow. Wayne Duggins added, "His commitment to high-quality resilience and his ability to bring out the best in others is his standard and he held folks accountable and diligent. He leaves an indelible mark and will be missed dearly."

## Elkin Downtown

In the words of wellwishers and avid supporters, Elkin is "on a roll." In 2017 there were mostly empty storefronts and plenty of parking; today, the complete opposite.

Then-newly elected Mayor Sam Bishop asked icon Jeff Eidson to form a group to restore and reignite downtown or, in Mayor Sam's words, "Make Elkin a cultural arts hub and a weekend destination." Explore Elkin was created by the committee — Dan Butner is credited with naming it — and today it has 450 members and is flourishing beyond description.

Those who met to bring back Elkin are:

Jeff Eidson	Dr. Myra Cox
Cicely McCulloch	Teresa Smith Chatham
Skip Whitman	Sam Tayloe
Dr. Bill Blackley	Joe Walker
Dan Butner	Jennifer White
Debbie Carson-Groner	Michael Witson

Our largest venue is The Liberty which seats 400.

## Ratledge Florist

Founded by Helen and Bob Ratledge in 1967 on Commerce Street in Elkin, Ratledge Florist has earned and enjoys a reputation for excellence in customer service and a legacy of incomparable design, creativity, and finding the way to please the buyers and recipients. Owner and CEO Bobé Westra shares that flowers can talk, send love, and have emotional and spiritual answers.

Bobé grew up in the shop, first learning to keep things clean, smile when customers arrive, and provide arrangements that bring happiness, sympathy, empathy, and lasting memories. She learned that success at Ratledge Florist begins with first caring for people, attracting a staff that loves the mission and outreach, and striving to design products that send sentiments and hopes. Bobé adds, "Grandmother Helen and Mother Kim instilled a caring message that we love to please, will strive to show the clients love, and deliver on our promises. We love what we do; want to get things right; put smiles on our faces and warmth in hearts; and be proud of our decorations. Our Ratledge team thrives on last-minute requests, fulfilling unique designs, being creative and artistic, developing long-lasting relationships, and most of all, pleasing our customers who see us as compassionate family."

## Service In Countless Ways

As we say on our "People Doing Good For Others," "Find a way to matter." A carryout ministry to Feed the Elderly in the Elkin, Jonesville, and Arlington area fills the bill, literally.

The project started in 1963 when Ruby Bryant began preparing meals in her kitchen in Jonesville and delivering to shut-ins. Today that ministry benefits 50 recipients. Meals are prepared by the Sedexo Food Service at the Hugh Chatham Health kitchen.

The service is funded and supported by the Elkin First Methodist, Elkin First Baptist, Elkin Presbyterian, Elkin Valley Baptist, St. Stephen's Catholic, Galloway Episcopal, Jonesville Pentecostal Holiness, and Maple Springs Methodist churches and by Danny and Sylvia Key of the former Vine Church. Meals are delivered by the Community Volunteers Team made up of members of First Baptist, Elkin Presbyterian, and Galloway Episcopal. Jane Motsinger, who has been on board for 45 years, said, "We have a total of 100 devoted and dedicated volunteers."

Phillip and Jean Lyles are actively involved and have shared that in many cases the recipients are as happy to see and hear a kind voice as they are to be food nourished. Please know that donations are needed and appreciated.

## Second Harvest Food Bank

Second Harvest Food Bank located in Winston-Salem is a leading provider of food to benefit the needy. It has embarked on a new and rewarding initiative which involves bringing a beautifully wrapped tractor and refrigerated trailer to remote sites, one of them being the Mount Airy City Schools district. Monthly it comes to the Jones Resource Center to meet clients with appreciated bags of onions, apples, fresh eggs, orange juice, and a large bag of assorted frozen staples. It is organized by Jon Doss, Polly Long, Second Harvest employees, and local volunteers. The distribution begins at 9 a.m. and by 10:30, 100 patrons will be served. They form a long line down Jones School Road before entering the center parking lot. Surry County owns the facility and leases spaces to nonprofits. Polly and Jon invited me to attend while we were chatting at Dr. Kim Morrison's recent retirement reception at Mount Airy City Schools' Central Office at 351 Riverside Drive.

## Saints Among Us

We are blessed by unique folks who by their mere sight bring us to spiritual bliss. One of those in my journey is Louis Stanfield. He and wife Linda came to Mount Airy from Smithfield in the early 1980s with Planters National Bank. He came to me shortly after my recovery in 1986 and after a huge smile stated, "I heard you recently had a Damascus Road experience similar to the Apostle Paul's meeting with our Lord while on his way to persecute Christians in Damascus, Syria, around 35 A.D." Louis' smile and kind words bring solace, redemption, and revival, always.

Such saints among us are considered to be men and women who are believed to have heroic values and hold a privileged place with us, and they are spiritual guides and mentors. Several others who come to mind are:

- Clayton and Carol Hall whose weekly statement to me that Mount Airy Friends Meeting has restored their joy for Sundays.
- Max and Jane Carter live in Greensboro, N.C., and are devoted Quakers and retired educators. They also play a key role as surrogate parents and friends for the Greensboro College Quakers men's basketball team that has climbed to the NCAA Division III Elite Eight over 420 competing teams. Among the 64 chosen to compete for the national title, the Quakers have totally outclassed three aspiring opponents, winning by more than 20 points in each contest. One standout player, Tyler Dearman, states, "I look in the stands before each game, knowing you are there to inspire our play and victory."
- The late Harry Vaughn, a classmate and foot-

ball teammate, befriended me at lunch on my first day at Mount Airy High School in 1958 by coming to my table and saying, "Welcome to Mount Airy High. I want to be your friend. You seem lonely and I'll help you through the hard times of making new friends. We have good people, too, and you are a good fit here!"

## To Be Blessed

Mount Airy Friends Meeting invited me to speak at its Sunday, March 3, 11 o'clock service. I chose to build my message around the treasured words of minor prophet Micah who wrote in the 8th Century B.C. that our Lord requires us to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with Him.

I also credited several remarks borrowed from noted teacher/preacher Chuck Swindoll, 89, of the Dallas Theological Seminary. He praised our countless country preachers with carrying the gospel to rural America and said 80% of our sermons are delivered to congregations of less than 200 members. They honorably share behind the scenes the awareness to many exploited believers and that they also champion the underdogs.

Several other meaningful points were:

- Jonesville Bojangles ambassador the Rev. Ronnie Wooten serves the Friendly Chapel Baptist Church in Hamptonville, N.C.
- Renowned 1650s evangelist George Fox challenged us to walk cheerfully across our land, sharing that there is that of God in all of us, and to set good examples.
- Mahatma Gandhi encouraged us to be a part of the changes we want to see.
- The Apostle Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians that we are to be generous and cheerfully give to many who suffer.
- Friend Lupe Chavez, who came to the U.S. in 1986, said it takes years to be trusted by reports.

## Mercy And Truth Ministries

Several close friends — mainly Rebekah Simpson, Marty Roberts, Robert and Libby Price, and Brianna Simpson — are significantly involved in the amazing outreach of Mercy and Truth Ministries that works miracles at Christmastime for needy families. In a recent note from CEO Rebekah Simpson, she wrote:

- Life isn't getting and having. It's about giving and being.
- Life is about making an impact, not making an income.
- The key isn't spending time, but investing in it.
- Only time will reveal the full yield of fruit abounding to your account due to your investment in the people of this community.

## St. Joseph's University

Dear friend Robert Rizoti of Clemmons is a regular at the Wilkesboro Methodist Church and is the leader of its Methodist Men outreach. Recently he described his group's first-Tuesday evening meal for a group of lay leaders and volunteers from St. Joseph's University of Philadelphia who were in Appalachia for spring break and focusing upon Habitat for Humanity support and projects. Robert's praise for the group was enthusiastic and a revelation:

- The group's spring excursion is an annual pilgrimage. Some 20 men and women were actively participating in the volunteer outreach.
- They were consummate minglers and chose to represent St. Joseph's at each table.
- The members were active mixers and were adept at learning about the community and church.
- They displayed an active concern for the Methodist Men's members and were generous with gratitude and thank-yous.
- They were dedicated to the mission and skilled at sharing its outreach.

Hopefully, I will find time to call the volunteers' coordinator at St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia, Pa., and share our appreciation. I also understand its students can earn degrees in nonprofit management and service.

## Hope Lessons

Kind souls shared these moments and I'm eager to pass them along:

- In the lobby of the Hugh Chatham Health reception is a weekly designed arrangement of fresh flowers sponsored by Ratledge Florist, G&B Energy, and Explore Elkin. It's a nice, classy touch.
- Chris Lawson of Pilot Mountain is a BSA Professional. "I have skin in the game," he states. "All three of my sons are Eagle Scouts."
- The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the most important event in Christian history.
- Cousin Brad York shared that a cousin/relative breakfast at the White Plains Ruritan Club last August is his most spiritual memory.
- The late Tom York shared, "We'll never miss what we give away."
- Granddaughter Mary Carter, daughter of Alan and Kyle York and sister of Mayley and Maggie Grace, was recognized in her third grade as having a "Heart of Gold" in Forest, Va., near Lynchburg.
- Dr. Richard Brinegar's father was deaf, however, he prayed by making guttural sounds while on his knees.
- We must always remember to never give up when doing good for others. —Galatians 6:9
- Eldora Ruritan Club, chartered in 1962, has been honoring local clergy for 35 years. Its leaders are Mickey Venable and Billy Smith.

## Bradley Creed

While attending a press session that introduced an agreement whereby residents in medicine, 15 annually, finishing medical school at Campbell University, will come to Hugh Chatham Health for their two-year residency program, I had the privilege of meeting Campbell University President Dr. Bradley Creed. He had extensive knowledge about local radio and we promised to stay connected. The next day, I sent a few photos and a thank-you note. He responded in the following day's mail — a unique occurrence to receive a thank-you thank-you.

He also shared that a university recruiter had drawn him to Campbell and that the decision to lead Campbell had been a once-in-a-lifetime best decision. He previously served Baylor University. He also commented at his inauguration at Campbell, "I have never traveled so far to feel so much at home."

Dr. Creed is a noted religion scholar as well.

## Word Match Game

Match the word on the right with its definition from the left.

- |               |       |                    |
|---------------|-------|--------------------|
| A. plebe      | _____ | 1. tiny amount     |
| B. ensign     | _____ | 2. to complain     |
| C. angst      | _____ | 3. cadet           |
| D. flogging   | _____ | 4. shaft           |
| E. dire       | _____ | 5. foolishly       |
| F. cam        | _____ | 6. scold           |
| G. crusader   | _____ | 7. bomber          |
| H. abased     | _____ | 8. weave           |
| I. mutter     | _____ | 9. neat            |
| J. twill      | _____ | 10. career         |
| K. glee       | _____ | 11. to gain        |
| L. castigate  | _____ | 12. linger         |
| M. venerate   | _____ | 13. revere         |
| N. exploit    | _____ | 14. at ease        |
| O. dapper     | _____ | 15. exceptional    |
| P. martin     | _____ | 16. dread          |
| Q. vocational | _____ | 17. club           |
| R. smidgen    | _____ | 18. extreme        |
| S. classy     | _____ | 19. guitar         |
| T. schmooze   | _____ | 20. punish         |
| U. waffle     | _____ | 21. campaigner     |
| V. tarry      | _____ | 22. belittle       |
| W. stealth    | _____ | 23. take advantage |
| X. ace        | _____ | 24. naval officer  |

(See answers on Page 7)

## Halls Of Fame

Halls of Fame come in all shapes and forms. We pay special attention when they start and who led the change. For instance, we credit the late David Beal for bringing Mount Airy's to life, and Eddie Wilmoth inspired Surry County's.

Most Sports Halls of Fame recognize both those who played the game and those who served behind the scenes. The founders of a Hall of Fame in Wilkes County in 2012 insisted that we recognize those from all walks of life, not just achievement in sports, and including more noted philanthropists, country preachers, and classroom teachers.

The following article shares the guiding philosophy and principles of the Wilkes County Hall of Fame:

"The Wilkes County Hall of Fame's goal is to recognize the human capital of Wilkes County and remind the citizens of the stories and excellence of the individuals' lives, inspiring students to pursue their goals by being encouraged by the accomplishments of those before them. In the past six years, 48 individuals have been inducted into the Wilkes County Hall of Fame in four categories: Leadership, Enterprise, Athletics/Sports, Performing and Cultural Arts. The inductees go through a nomination process and then are assessed by the Hall of Fame Board members before being chosen out of the dozens of applications received every year. Those involved with the Wilkes County Hall of Fame have found that an extraordinary number of the inductees have maintained connections in the area, which could be attributed to the entrepreneurial spirit, drive, and inspiration that were instilled in them in their formative years by living in the cohesive community of Wilkes County. Another commonality between the inductees is their focus on doing good for the sole purpose of doing good, not for the recognition or to receive any benefits from it."

We are often asked why a wonderful contributor is not a Hall of Fame member. Regardless of the remarkability of anyone, he or she must be nominated and go through the selection process by a designated committee. Please contact those who administer the Hall of Fame, submit a nomination, and let the process transpire.

## 100th Birthday

The family of Shorty Wagoner celebrated his 100th birthday with a huge gathering at Mount Airy's Chick-fil-A. We gathered at 2 p.m. and the family stayed until 5:30. Of notable interest, Surry County was a thriving area for all-star (post high school) basketball teams. One such team was sponsored by York Oil Co. and Shorty was its star point guard. At 6 years old in 1949 I vividly remember Shorty and my dad, Tom, was also a teammate.

## Pilot Mountain BSA Troop 554

Assistant Scoutmaster Lee Cook at BSA Troop 554 in Pilot Mountain stated these notable facts:

- The troop was chartered in 1955.
- Donnie Diamont and Lee Cook have been leading the troop for 25 years.
- The troop has had 207 Eagle Scouts.
- Its only fundraiser is a donation-only benefit. (All donations accepted cheerfully.)

Many of my most admired friends are involved in leading and supporting BSA endeavors and they aspire to live good lives by being:

Trustworthy	Obedient	Loyal
Cheerful	Helpful	Thrifty
Friendly	Brave	Courteous
Clean	Kind	Reverent

## Things Discerners Believe

Let's seek and find ways to serve, give, care, and share. Hourly I think of how to uplift a colleague. This message is one example: "When I think of you, I think of 'communal,' meaning you are able to see intersections and make connections. You create environments that drive collective expressions, encouragement, and reflection. Thank you for exemplifying communal meaning. I am grateful for the impact we are making in our space."

Ray Earnhardt is forever sending reminders about caring for others. This prayer is entitled, "Go Now In Peace": "Go now in peace and never be afraid. God will go with us in all we do. Go now in love and show we believe. Reach out to others so all the world can see. God will be there, watching from above. Go now in peace, in faith, and in love. Amen. Amen. Amen."

Do our jobs well, follow our hearts, and seek our Lord's guidance and help. Be alert and tell others what God has done. Be ready for opposition, dare to fight back, and prepare for setbacks. United we stand and divided we fall. However, be determined, protect our families, and know our future is worth fighting for. Honor authority and respond to God's calls and know troubles will come. Prayer is essential and seek God's will.

## Great Reputation

The Guilford College's men's basketball team on the way to making the Final Four in Fort Wayne, Indiana, demolished a Keene State team 82-60 to advance to the Sweet Sixteen. I was sitting next to Brooks Haworth of Winston-Salem and Guilford graduate John Atkinson of Elkin. He graduated in 1967 and represented Nike for 40 years. I said our coach, Tom Palombo, is "a great coach," to which he remarked, "Yes, and he's an even better person" Wow, what a great reputation.

## Create Favors

Brent McKinney and I met in February of 1998 and his help in my journey is profound. He is wise, a visionary, and can see around corners. Monthly we meet at Aunt Bea's in Pilot Mountain for his Diet Mountain Dew and a biscuit. In our discussion is always reflection about his professorship at N.C. A&T University in Greensboro.

For 25 years he's been going there each Tuesday and Thursday to share his experience, vision, and hope. Brent is an accomplished civil engineer and currently is teaching a senior-level construction engineering class. Brent is a master at inviting learned guests to bring variety to his patrons. We agreed that friend Chris Carter, a significant contributor at the D.H. Griffin Co. in Greensboro, N.C., would be an awesome contributor to his group.

Chris leads a group that prepares sites for buildings' construction, builds storm drains, installs water and sewer lines and curbs and gutters, moves dirt, and compacts soils. When Brent realized Chris' talent, he asked if Chris might visit A&T and share his career experience and knowledge. Chris and Brent connected and in the words of Brent, "Chris Carter gave our class 90 minutes of immeasurable hands-on knowledge. His whiteboard Power-Point was over the top. How good was it? Students stayed after class with challenging questions and praise." Way to go, Chris, Brent, and the A&T contingent of aspirants.

## Donna Fargo

Local friend and county-music superstar Donna Fargo from Slate Mountain, Mount Airy High School, and High Point University wrote in her Blue Mountain Arts book, "Everything Is Possible With God":

### Sow Seeds Of Optimism

"Live our life in a spirit of cooperation with others.... When we're honest with ourself and others, we can avoid misunderstandings and save ourself a lot of time.... When we're full of joy, give it away, and it will be returned to us when we need it. Share our smiles and hugs and words of encouragement and feel the reflection of these sunny thoughts and feelings shining back on us. Remember that when we sow seeds of optimism in someone else's life, they will bloom for us, too, someday."

## Things Achievers Say And Do

In all groups of two or more, top accomplishees are likely to establish themselves as being proactive. Many of their contributions are made with a minimum of effort and investment and in most cases they simply act on natural instinct and habit.

Let's list a few of their characteristics and should we choose to implement change we may see en-

hancements in others' perception of our leadership. They are:

- They wear perpetual smiles.
- They enjoy being actively kind.
- They are willing to say, "I don't know."
- They say, "I appreciate you."
- They ask, "How are you really doing?"
- They ask, "What do you think?"
- They state, "I'm here for you."
- They check on all friends.
- They follow up on commitments.
- They go to funerals.
- They are active listeners.
- They seek out the lonely and embrace them.
- They develop warm habits.

## Personal Achievement

In my collection of publications I share when sending greeting notes is a real keeper by Jan D'Arcy entitled "Speak Without Fear," an epistle regarding how we aid our public speaking skills by becoming more confident. She selected several qualities most people would like to possess and project. They are:

- **Enthusiasm.** Emerson said, "Nothing is ever accomplished without enthusiasm." They are absorbed with life.
- **Belief in What We Are Doing.** Billy Graham is a great example.
- **Trustworthiness.** They exude a feeling of assurance.
- **Confidence.** These people are fascinated with everyone they meet. Many people lack self-confidence.

## What It's About

It's not about those who are good or the ones we once knew. It's about those who are here and the new ones we are meeting.

It's not about the things we have done or the places we've been. It's about what we are doing and where we are going.

It's not about the choices we made or the lives we once loved. It's choices we are making and the lives we are living.

It's not how much we have been blessed, but the blessing we are giving a friend.

\* \* \*

Have we ever thought about how many people are hurting from sickness, family breakup, or just down on their luck and only need a kind word, a smile, and some encouragement? Sometimes life is tough, even for people who hide it very well. It's the little things that make the biggest difference, and things money can't buy. So the next time we feel really good about ourselves, share that feeling and be grateful for all our blessings.

## A Meaningful Gift

Many people are significantly shy, reserved, and distinctly uncomfortable when it comes to starting up a conversation and making new acquaintances in a strange setting. I suppose 90 percent of us would never speak if never spoken to first. For most, a nightmare and for a vital few an incredible opportunity.

Below are a few suggestions for encouraging and prompting a meaningful conversation. I take no credit for the suggestions; this article just showed up. The Funeral and Memorial Information Council created the following list originally titled, "Have the Talk of a Lifetime," to help families have important conversations about the things that matter most to them and how a person's life story can be remembered and honored in a meaningful way. Hopefully, these suggestions may (will) help you.

### How Do I Start The Talk?

1. What is your proudest achievement?
2. What was the one piece of advice you received from your parents or grandparents that you never forgot?
3. Tell me about the most memorable summer you had growing up.
4. Tell me about your favorite teacher. What did you learn from him or her?
5. If you could spend a day doing anything you like, what would it be?
6. Who has been your greatest inspiration?
7. Share a moment when a family member was a hero.
8. Share the loss of a favorite friend.
9. Share a mentor and impact.
10. Share an experience which led to an awesome victory.
11. Share a life-saving event.
12. Share your best influencer.

## Friend To Friend

Sensing maybe I could bring business income to a valuable friend, I dialed his number and shared my willingness to lend a hand. After listening and a brief pause, he replied, "Gary, I'm grateful for your call. However, we already do business with your client. My best friend at the dealership has been in a relationship with them for over 20 years and they are in good hands."

He paused and added, "Thanks for remembering us. You've been a loyal friend and we've helped one another. Your connection is a most valued customer already and I'll remember your willingness to share your lead and connections!"

Our message is to selflessly be on the lookout for opportunities to connect the need with the supply. A lead is a lead regardless of the outcome. The attempt and effort is a powerful message.

## Good News

Mentor Dr. Don Martin and I connected at an Addiction seminar sponsored by the Kernersville News' late editor John Owensby in 2017. Dr. Martin was a Forsyth County Commissioner and had been the superintendent of Forsyth County Schools for 19 years. We share breakfast at the King Kitchen monthly and he is in his third term as Forsyth County Commissioner and currently its Chairman. Recently he was invited to join Winston-Salem Mayor Allen Joiner at the Winston-Salem Airport to greet President Joe Biden's wife, Jill, who was stopping to tour Forsyth Technical Community College and to make a grant at Raleigh's Wake Tech.

At present, Dr. Martin is serving as Mount Airy City Schools interim Superintendent on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays through April 15.

## The Small Things

Daily we are presented opportunities to brighten someone's day. Being on the lookout is vital to doing our part. Here are a few suggestions:

- Be looking over our shoulders for the chance to hold open the door for a follower.
- Leave a few coins for others to use at a checkout line.
- Smile for those we meet.
- Add a kind word to the smile.
- Pick up a piece of debris or trash; never litter.
- Always be the bearer of good news.
- Bring cheer to every phone call.
- Add our name to every ring answer.
- Saying "thanks" is mandatory.
- Make a random call to bring cheer.
- Seek and find ways to serve.
- Cook and deliver a meal to a shut-in.
- Say "yes" even when we have a good excuse.
- Make secondary yields at a four-way stop sign.
- Make a new friend daily.
- Pay attention to youngsters.
- Pray at all meals.
- Have a curse-free day.
- Others before self.
- Look to compliment others.
- Connect needs to supplies.
- Pre-tip wait staff.
- Honor public servants.

## Atrium Health

In a physician's office is posted this placard:

1. We create a space where all belong.
2. We work as a team to make things happen.
3. We earn trust in all we do.
4. We innovate to better the now and create the future.
5. We strive for excellence — always.

## Deadly Dilemma

Friend Anthony Gurley recently published a "re-latable, inspiring, shocking, and believable memoir" on mental health and suicide prevention. Below is a description of his book and its message:

"We've all experienced moments of success and joy. We've also had moments of failure, disappointment and fear. In your landscape of life, are there enough peaks of wonderful memories to overcome the valleys of bad memories?"

"In 'Deadly Dilemma,' Anthony Gurley unsparingly invites you to share his journey to encourage you to confront your own struggles and discover answers to that bigger question.

"Anthony is not a celebrity, an athlete, a politician, or a business tycoon. He's an ordinary guy asking that bigger question about life, relating to personal and professional successes and failures and disappointments. 'I've battled poor self-image and lack of self-esteem from childhood. My daddy used to say, "Get out of the way. I can't see through muddy water," and, "Don't ask me for a damn thing.'" Those words haunted him as he struggled to value his own self-worth.

"Anthony Gurley introduces his book, 'Deadly Dilemma,' with 'The Letter ... I Never Sent.' He writes, 'It's hard to believe I am finally at this place. I toyed with this thought for decades. I talked about studying suicide as a sociology major in college. I told friends and family that I understood how one could get to the point where it made sense. I said I understood it from an academic and conceptual standpoint, but I could never do it myself. I believed what I said.'

"I commented that my struggles with these issues are in no way unique to me. And by comparison, my challenges, disappointments, and failures are not noteworthy. Therein lies the epiphany of this entire exercise. My story is *my* story. It is not yours. My successes, victories, disappointments, and failures are mine alone. You have your successes, victories, disappointments, and failures. My anchors are mine, and I now know they are strong enough to withstand any force that would seek to separate me from them.'

"Gurley grew up in public housing in eastern North Carolina in the 1950s and '60s. His father walked out on him and the family just as he turned 12. He graduated in 1967, and spent the next 10 years earning a four-year degree at Guilford College, taking time away on two occasions working, getting married, and starting a family. He spent thirty years at his alma mater as the Director of Financial Aid, retiring in 2009."

"Deadly Dilemma: A Memoir" by Anthony Gurley was published this year by Mill City Press Inc. It's available in paperback from Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Thrift Books, and other booksellers.

## Rules And Tools

Collected in 2000 and near and dear in my archives is a manual by Major. Gen. Perry M. Smith, PhD. I frequently retrieve it for a needed impetus. Below is his list of traits all great leaders possess:

1. Being trustworthy.
2. Teaching.
3. Outstanding communicator.
4. Willing to listen.
5. Problem-solve.
6. Persevere.
7. Time management.
8. Technically competent.
9. Face incompetence.
10. Genuine interest in teammates.
11. Be a visionary.
12. Willing to say, "I was wrong."
13. Conductor of meetings.
14. Motivator.
15. Open-door approachability.
16. Humorous.
17. Being decisive.
18. Be selfless.
19. Be reliable.
20. Have dignity.
21. Be generous.
22. Welcome help.
23. Learn from mistakes.
24. Foster diversity.

## Humble People

We are always inspired by those who quietly, without fanfare, bring out the best in others. One label for those who lead is humility. They invariably ask for help. Part of being humble means realizing they don't have all the answers. Humble people acknowledge what they do and do not know and enlist help for the latter. Humble people display a willingness to learn and become better — two qualities that everybody should cultivate.

## Welcome Back, Kitty

Mount Airy Friends Meeting pianist and organist Kitty Martin is back. She has served for 41 years. We praise her backup, Adam Doss, for his honorable service. Kitty's renditions are melodious. She also teaches students in Winston-Salem.

## Word Match Game answers

(from Page 3)

A. 3	F. 4	K. 17	P. 19	U. 5
B. 24	G. 21	L. 6	Q. 10	V. 12
C. 16	H. 22	M. 13	R. 1	W. 7
D. 20	I. 2	N. 23	S. 14	X. 15
E. 18	J. 9	O. 9	T. 11	

# The Communicator

A Publication of:  
100.9 WIFM  
Post Office Box 1038  
Elkin, NC 28621

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

# Mitchell's Nursery

Providing plants to the Triad  
since 1979

**Trees, Shrubs,  
Perennials, Vegetables,  
Houseplants and More!**



(336) 983-4107

1088 W. Dalton Rd.,

King, NC 27021

