

# THE COMMUNICATOR

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Since January 1990

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May 2024

## Greater Mount Airy Chamber Of Commerce

Founded by Dennis Moody and friends in 1959, an awards ceremony at the Greater Mount Airy Chamber of Commerce's annual meeting each January honors a cadre of achievers and advocates. Held at Cross Creek Country Club and attended by nearly 400 chamber members and guests, the most professional celebration is staged by the Chamber staff. Below we honor this year's award winners and the award sponsors:

- Outstanding Public Service Award: **Sandra Snow**. Sponsored by Citizens for Calvin Vaughn City Commissioner
- Business Longevity Award: **Mayberry Market & Souvenirs**. Sponsored by Surry Communications
- Excellence in Tourism Award: **Mayberry Squad Car Tours, LLC**. Sponsored by Visit Mayberry NC
- Educator of the Year Award: **Bryan Hayes**. Sponsored by Cooke Rentals of Mount Airy, NC
- Young Professional of the Year Award: **Raleigh Scales**. Sponsored by the United Fund of Surry County
- Small Business of the Year Award: **Creative Designs Flowers & Gifts**. Sponsored by Hodges Realty
- Large Business of the Year Award: **Surry-Yadkin Electric Membership Corporation**. Sponsored by Hampton Inn by Hilton of Mount Airy
- Ambassador of the Year: **Audrey Diener Caspell**. Sponsored by The Mount Airy News
- Valor Award: **Corey Scearce**. Sponsored by Luck Stone
- Duke Energy Service & Citizenship Award: **Vincent's Legacy, Kindness Rocks**. Sponsored by Duke Energy Carolinas.
- Citizens of the Year Award: **Dr. David and Nancy Dixon**. Sponsored by WorkForce Unlimited, Mount Airy

We are blessed and honored by our Chamber's outstanding staff members: President and CEO John Pynakker, Membership Director Christie Andrews, and Marketing Director Will Pfitzner.

Members of the Chamber's Board of Directors are Lenise Lynch, Wendy Wood, Clay Nowlin, Can-

dace Holder, Connie Hamlin, Joe Zalescik, Melissa Hiatt, John Pynakker, Chris Knopf, Dr. Kim Morrison, Blake Moyer, Dr. Travis Reeves, Jessica Roberts, Todd Ennis, Oman da Fratwell, Robbie Gardner, Tonda Phillips, Madison Joyce, Chris Lumsden, Ritchie Parker, Peter Raymer, Steve Yokeley, Hall Roberts, Chad Tidd, and Taylor Younger.

## Advocacy Conference

On March 29 at the Surry County Farm Bureau Conference Center in Dobson, the Greater Mount Airy Chamber of Commerce staged a first-of-its-kind gathering that attracted nearly 100 active participants. It featured a most informative keynote address by NC Chamber President and CEO Gary Salamido, a catered breakfast, and an hour of panel discussions led by stalwart emcee Chad Tidd, owner of Chick-fil-A in Mount Airy.

Our illustrious panelists included Surry County Manager Chris Knopf, local developer Gene Rees, Duke Energy Region Director Jimmy Flythe, Surry Medical Ministries Executive Director Nancy Dixon, and Surry County Schools Superintendent Dr. Travis Reeves. Most-interesting discussions centered around Mount Airy's proposed conference center and major hotel, housing shortages, and economic development.

Chamber President John Pynakker's closing remarks included intentions to stage the event again next year in light of the overwhelming turnout. Attendees at each table were encouraged to submit cards with forthright assessments and feedback.

A caption on the agenda stated, "In 2023, the chamber helped advocate for over \$40,000,000 allocated to Surry County."

Generous sponsors were LazerEdge, WLA Trucking, Northern Regional Hospital, and Surry Communications. Breakfast was sponsored by Bottomley Enterprises.

Among the elected officials attending were Mount Airy City Commissioners Phil Thacker and Chad Hutchens, Mayor Jon Cawley, and Surry County Commissioner Mark Marion.

For more information about the Greater Mount Airy Chamber of Commerce and its activities, visit its website at [www.mtairyncchamber.org](http://www.mtairyncchamber.org).

## Apprenticeship Celebration

Under the leadership of the Surry County Schools, Surry Community College, Surry-Yadkin Works, and Apprenticeship NC, a graduation celebration was held to honor Victor Hall and Wyatt Edwards. These young men had recently completed apprenticeships with the Surry County Maintenance Department and become full-time employees with the Surry County Schools. They had also been employed during the programs.

Participating in the ceremonies were SCC President Dr. David Shockley, Surry-Yadkin Works Executive Director Crystal Folger Hawks, WBL Director Rachel Hiatt, Surry County Schools Construction Director Robert Draughn, Surry County Schools Director of Maintenance Doug Dixon, Apprenticeship NC Director Dr. Chris Harrington, and Surry County Schools Superintendent Dr. Travis Reeves.

We congratulate the participants in this monumental initiative. Student participation has grown to 325 in three years.

Fortunately, I'll connect with Dr. David Shockley, Dr. Travis Reeves, Mack Byrd, Dr. Steven Hall, Dr. Don Martin, and Dr. Myra Cox weekly. Frequently our conversations will touch on the daily opportunities to address groups and folk have high expectations about what is said. Each is masterful, adroit, and eager!

## Guilford Men's Basketball

Our Guilford College Men's Basketball Team made the NCAA Division III Final Four and finished the season with a 26-5 record. There are 420 D-III teams. We salute Coach Tom Palombo, his staff, players, and every supporter.

I see the Quakers' men's basketball program with a unique perspective. Its No. 1 fans were Max and Jane Carter, both legendary educators who have been around for 35 years. They bring love and doughnuts.

Nationally acclaimed NCAA Division I Coach of the Year David Odom says, "Tom Palombo is respected as a great coach and even better person. He molds men."

## Superintendent Don Martin

Dr. Don Martin is serving the Mount Airy City Schools as its interim superintendent. He also served as an interim in 2016 between the terms of Dr. Greg Little and Dr. Kim Morrison. Don was Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Superintendent of Schools for 19 years. He is currently chairman of the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners. He grew up in Georgia and attended Duke University and University of Kentucky. We meet monthly and he's a wonderful resource and mentor.

## Chris Carter

Met Chris Carter in 1995 as he joined our American Legion baseball team, the Surry Pride, after graduating from Elkin High School. He later played baseball at N.C. State University where he graduated with a degree in Construction Engineering. His current career is leading D.H. Griffin Infrastructure in Greensboro.

Last month I wrote of his guest appearance lecturing to Brent McKinney's Construction Engineering class at N.C. A&T University. Brent has shared that Chris' impact was phenomenal as the class ended with 30 minutes of challenging questions and discussion.

The D.H. Griffin Company played a key role in bringing pickleball courts to Elkin's Crater Park where drive-bys revealed active participation. The courts are named after Chris' late father, Mickey Carter, to honor his legendary advocacy for tennis and pickleball in Elkin and his outstanding career at Chatham Manufacturing. Several tournaments have been staged with proceeds benefitting local non-profits.

Chris shared the following "Your Best Day" tips:

- Be totally present wherever we are.
- Be selfless in all endeavors.
- Arrive at work early. Stay late.
- Daily planning is paramount.
- Call people by name.
- Add a smile to all greetings.
- Praise matters.
- Listen before we speak.

## Guilford College

In 1961 all Quakers matriculated to Guilford College in Greensboro. After a few ups and downs I graduated on time in 1965 and taught and coached at Henderson High School in 1965-66 and Surry Central High School in 1966-67.

Was Guilford College a good choice? Yes! I cherish the impact of coaches Dr. Herb Appenzeller and Stuart Maynard; teachers Dr. Paul Zaph, Dr. Carroll Fagans, Dr. Pete Moore, and Dr. Ann Deacon; and teammates David Odom, Bill Joye, Bill Pleasants, and Brooks Haworth speak often.

On a recent card from Lindsay Gauldin are listed Guilford's Core Values. Don't remember ways and experiences; however, they are vital to this day.

1. **Equality.** African-American James McCorkle was in my class.
2. **Excellence.** Made mostly C's and several B's.
3. **Integrity.** Principles shared and expected.
4. **Justice.** Four years of good example.
5. **Stewardship.** Learned respect and activism.
6. **Community Service.** Was the norm.
7. **Diversity.** Met and embraced resident Jews and a roommate was from Syria.

## Fixers

The opportunities to meet amazing people is a wonderful gift bestowed upon me. Being an avid photographer and a member of the media affords me huge advantages. Often the MVP in an organization is the person who is skilled at mending and reviving things. In no particular order, these guys are tops on my list:

### Robert Smithey

Robert Smithey of North Wilkesboro was on the Board of Directors at the Ruby Pardue Blackburn Adult Day Care Center when I arrived on the Board of Directors. Robert's impact on the organization's operations surfaced immediately.

With an eight-member staff and 40 clients eating daily, unfortunate things happen to even the best equipment under a heavy load. We have virtually no breakdowns as Robert's weekly inspections help us stay ahead of the curve. We either replace aging equipment or repair fixables before they break down. Robert's career as a machine shop owner prepared him to be the master fixer. When he speaks, all listen. Operations at the Blackburn Center are virtually flawless as Robert keeps us ahead of the game.

### Gerald Plaster

Now retired, Gerald Plaster spent 44 years repairing vehicles for UPS. We are exercise friends at the Armfield Recreation Center in Pilot Mountain. After meeting him and wife Teresa, I quickly realized his acumen. His next major enhancement will be a hydraulic lift. He avows that most of those with a reputation as a fixer have an array of tools. He owns the means to tackle any and every failure. MAC is Gerald's choice for tools.

He recently gifted his pickup to a grandson and after a few weeks bought a somewhat nondescript Chevy in Thomasville. In a few weeks it was A-Number-1. Every mechanical function was fixed or replaced. It's over 20 years old and still will be here when we are all gone. Teresa says he's never been stumped.

### Tom York

My dad, Tom York, was a top fixer, too. He had a packed tool shed and seemed to know where everything was, except for a small blowtorch used for soldering things which disappeared during his last 20 years.

I can see Dad today, always with his Tampa Nugget cigar and mowing his own yard. He also would make classic pimento cheese and churn ice cream. I think strawberry was his favorite.

From 1941 until the 1950s he followed major power construction projects like the Newport News Shipyard, Buggs Island, and the Savannah River Project in Aiken, South Carolina. He was a union

member and a skilled electrician.

Most can't-fix-nothing men like me call an electrician when a light bulb burns out. Dad never spent any time teaching me, as I showed no interest.

### The late Dale Nunn

Dale came to GTY Trucking and Neighbors in the late 1980s and his impact was astounding. He birthed GTY Trucking.

After Dale pulled up at a job site in his huge box van, problems quickly disappeared. His van held the tools to fix any and every issue. Add his magic touch and a problem's demise was assured.

He was as good as his word. I remember his telling me the day he would finish rehabbing White's Exxon in Lewisville. We showed up at 6 a.m. and it was a sight to behold.

## Word Match Game

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

- |                |       |                   |
|----------------|-------|-------------------|
| A. Pistol Pete | _____ | 1. Randy Johnson  |
| B. clout       | _____ | 2. spout          |
| C. dapper      | _____ | 3. religious      |
| D. excavator   | _____ | 4. principled     |
| E. prone       | _____ | 5. optimistic     |
| F. integrity   | _____ | 6. sensible       |
| G. facet       | _____ | 7. conduct        |
| H. nozzle      | _____ | 8. influence      |
| I. vain        | _____ | 9. arrogant       |
| J. trepid      | _____ | 10. sorcerer      |
| K. prudent     | _____ | 11. fearful       |
| L. sanguine    | _____ | 12. earthmover    |
| M. Big Unit    | _____ | 13. contest       |
| N. pious       | _____ | 14. aspect        |
| O. ethical     | _____ | 15. position      |
| P. devious     | _____ | 16. Maravich      |
| Q. uppity      | _____ | 17. inclined to   |
| R. decibel     | _____ | 18. legal record  |
| S. alignment   | _____ | 19. home          |
| T. quiz bowl   | _____ | 20. useless       |
| U. docket      | _____ | 21. underhanded   |
| V. wizard      | _____ | 22. power measure |
| W. habitat     | _____ | 23. Symphony      |
| X. Goose Creek | _____ | 24. neat          |

*(See answers on Page 7)*

## The "Y"

In our region we are blessed by two thriving YMCAs. Once attended a "We'll come if..." session at the Reeves Theatre in Elkin. Promises to come are quite stringent and demanding. Our Y's are in King and Yadkinville. One of our coveted visits during the 2024 Leadership Yadkin experience was a walk-through led by Executive Director Scott Spillman. He stated that in 2023 the Yadkinville YMCA served more than 7,700 clients. Several favorites who've played key roles in its success are Evelyn Motley, Jerry Carlton, Marty Driver, and Hubert Gregory.

Things that matter most at YMCAs are:

- Being a safe haven for children to learn, grow, and prosper.
- Life-saving skills.
- YMCA Camp Hanes.
- Vital health-care resources.
- Hope and sense of belonging.
- Financial scholarships.
- Safe after-school service.
- Healthy choices.
- Volunteer opportunities.

The Yadkinville YMCA's 2024 Annual Impact Fund's goal is \$2,554,000.

## Seen at the "Y"

Some memorable signs on walls at the Yadkinville YMCA:

- A positive attitude will lead to a positive outcome.
- Make a wish or make it happen.
- Don't wait for opportunity — create it.
- All things are difficult before they are easy.

## ESHS National Honor Society

Granddaughter Savannah Bohr was inducted into the National Technical Honor Society at East Surry High School on April 7. A rising senior, she is an "A" Honor Roll student and will pursue nursing at Surry Community College and UNC-Charlotte. At present she's working at 13 Bones Family Restaurant in Mount Airy, volunteering at Northern Regional Hospital's Emergency Room, and taking college-level courses at Surry Community College. After receiving her CNA she'll enter SCC's Registered Nursing Degree program and participate in the SCC and Surry County Schools' Apprenticeship Program.

A huge crowd gathered at the East Surry Gymnasium for the National Honor Societies event. The impressive ceremonies were wonderfully staged and ended with a spiritual candle-lighting celebration. Values recognized in National Honor Society members are character, leadership, skills, service, scholarship, responsibility, honesty, and citizenship.

## Christie Williams

Christie Williams has taught Drafting at Carroll County High School for 29 years. The district recently selected her as its Teacher of the Year. We met through her husband, Mount Airy Director of Public Works Mitch Williams.

During our "People Doing Good For Others" interview, she shared sponsoring an Acts of Kindness Club and gifted me several cards listing acts of kindness suggested by the club members. Here are some suggestions:

Make a care package	Be a listener
Return a lost item	Thank a teacher
Bake goodies to share	Praise someone
Donate to a charity	Give up our seat
Babysit for a friend	Pick up litter
Hold a door for another	Donate clothing
Pay for someone's drink	Share an umbrella
Compliment a parent	Walk a friend's dog
Speak to a lonely friend	Say "Hello"
Make someone laugh	Leave a surprise note
Seek out the homeless	Visit a shut-in
Tell someone you love them	

## Potpourri

- Mount Airy Friends Meeting has been blessed by exceptional interim sermons by Max Carter, Dr. Roger Gilbert, Richard Loman, Barry Biggerstaff, and Frank Levering.

- Jesus' mainstay is teaching by sharing life-changing lessons through parables. Possibly the most impactful is The Parable of the Prodigal Son revealed in Luke 15:11-32. What can be more meaningful than the reunification of parents and children? As I've said in countless cases, we've been forgiven before we ask.

- Most of us, most especially young men, can vividly remember being bullied as a middle schooler on the playground. My story was played out at recess behind White Plains School around 1956-57. He's still living and was a most successful businessman.

- During my year teaching and coaching at Surry Central High School, 1966-67, a youngster I remember and deeply respect was freshman Joe Riddle who after a career at R.J. Reynolds has joined the Board of Directors at Surry Communications. Joe is easy to like as he possesses values we appreciate.

- We realized early on that guitarist Presley Barker would quickly climb to the top of his calling. After graduation from UNC-Charlotte, he'll go to law school. His report cards have all A's and he was East Wilkes High School's top student. He said, "When we competed, we did not always win; however, I never won competitions sitting at home, mulling over crooked judges."

## Frank Levering

Frank Levering is an orchardist in Ararat, Va., and a noted playwright, director, and producer. His Cherry Orchard Theatre on his property in Ward's Gap below Cana, Va., is now entering its 26th season.

Twelve years ago he wrote one of his most popular plays, "Thunder in the Hills," about a wild shootout at the Carroll County Courthouse in Hillsville, Va., in 1912. "Thunder in the Hills" features 36 actors. The show is staged in the original Carroll County courtroom on each weekend in April, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. The nonprofit extravaganza has yielded more than \$75,000 to rehabilitate the Sidna Allen House in Fancy Gap, Va., the home of the Allens who were involved in a bizarre gunfight in which five people were killed. The house is coming back to life after years of deterioration.

Frank, now 71, also owns the Levering Orchard and markets its fruit. The orchard is famous for its pick-your-own cherries in season. The Leverings came to Ararat in the mid-1800s. Frank's parents, Sam and Miriam, were devoted Quakers, pacifists, and peace activists.

## Fond Farewell

At the close of the Wilkesboro Methodist Men's first-Tuesday dinner, a female guest from St. Joseph's University Campus Ministries gave Robert Rizoti's group this compliment card: "Thank-you so much for your generous hospitality this evening. We enjoyed sharing with you and learning about the wonderful lives you've lived. Thanks for sharing your stories and wisdom. We leave full and ready to spread your love. We hope to spread your love and return next year."

The group of lay leaders and volunteers from St. Joseph's University of Philadelphia came to northwest North Carolina on their spring break and focused on Habitat for Humanity's support and projects in Appalachia. The group's spring excursion is an annual pilgrimage. Some 20 men and women were actively involved in this voluntary outreach.

## Harold Swaim

We can choose to do as late, great friend Harold Swaim wrote to me a few days before his demise in September: "A society grows when old men plant trees whose shade they will never sit in (old Greek proverb)."

He's dearly missed. The Elkin Rescue Squad dedicated its latest unit in his honor. He lived to serve, especially nonprofits and neighborhood seniors. Daily he rode to check on the elderly. He was also known for building the first youth swimming pool in Yadkin County.

## We Praise

- Sandi Scannelli, President and CEO of the Shallowford Foundation, for her efforts to provide the means for strivers to accomplish goals and exceed expectations. Its Foundation Features, "Unlocking Philanthropic Opportunities," is beyond compare and unlocks treasure troves of blessings.

- The "Yadkin County 2023 Annual Report" compiled by County Manager Lisa Hughes and staff is exemplary. Yadkin County Commissioners Kevin Austin, Cliff Collins, David Moxley, Frank Zachary, and Marion Welborn are tireless, visible, and devoted. Miss Hughes' presentation to the 2024 Yadkin Leadership Team was inspiring and informative.

- Brannock & Hiatt Furniture opened at 420 N. Main St. in Mount Airy in 1962. Its founding team of the late Tom and Jo established a service, quality, and value retailer that's incomparable. Its loyal client base is comprised by those who simply say, "Call Brannock & Hiatt." Its leaders are Tommy, Paige, and Shep Brannock and Stanley Holt.

- Phil Harris is chief saddle maker at Harris Leather and Silverworks of State Road. A favorite photo of mine is Phil showcasing his 2023 International LoneStar road tractor at the 2023 Mayberry Truck Show at the Bottomley Enterprises facility near Exit 100 off I-77 in Surry County. Phil is also a trustee at Hugh Chatham Health in Elkin.

- Public school bus drivers are extremely diligent and remarkable. Driving east on N.C. Highway 268 from Elkin to Pilot Mountain, I was behind an Elkin City Schools activity bus. I congratulate the driver for his or her safety-driven mastery of the vehicle. The person never broke the speed limit, never crossed a yellow line, and was in total control and courteous. Those who drive school buses are answering a most high calling. We salute them!

## Going To Grandma's

Several teammates at a 5:30 a.m. exercise session in Armfield Recreation Center joined in sharing memories of the things we learned around breakfast in our grandmother's kitchen. We readily agreed that our first experience drinking full straight coffee was the start, loaded with sugar and whole cream. Guess it was our first buzz. Another member shared his first regular Pepsi was an education. All felt being the most special grandchild.

I shared that I could never remember going to Grandma York's when she had not saved chicken — at least three pieces — and a bowl of gravy and some biscuits. Dessert was Karo syrup, butter from churned milk, and more coffee. Grandma also was a masterful seamstress. There were 11 grandchildren within shouting distance. We all grew up watching Pro Wrestling on White Plains' only black-and-white TV and musing through Grit, a weekly magazine.

## Leadership Yadkin County

Founded by Bobby Todd, the late Thomas Wooten, and the late Dr. Wayne Matthews in 2006, Leadership Yadkin provides opportunities for participants, enhancements, social development, knowledge, experience, and education. Directed by the Yadkin County Chamber of Commerce executives Bobby Todd and Jamie Johnston, members devote one day each month for seven months learning the intricacies of Yadkin County. Noted historian Andrew Mackie served as guide for several sessions.

I've been invited to share several remarks at graduation and look forward to the opportunity. I've chosen to focus on the values of always finding ways to keep our hopes alive. Having spent many years as a hopeless and desperate addict, being on the cusp is most revealing. My trusted Google presented powerful messages I'll share to our group:

"In a world where so many people focus on the bad instead of the good, the ugly instead of the beautiful, on scarcity instead of abundance, fear instead of love, I hope you'll dare to smile when others frown, to believe when others doubt, and to love when others hate."  
—*Luminita Saviuc*

"A good teacher can inspire hope, ignite the imagination, and instill a love of learning."  
—*Brad Henry*

## Crusading Efforts

The Neighbors Stores operated from 1981 to 2011 and in its heyday made limitless innovations, splendid initiatives, and awesome achievement. We brought to life a simple community enhancement called "The Raffle" that served as a fundraiser for non-profit groups, teams, clubs, and troops. It involved establishing a need and asking Neighbors staff, probably Gina Button or Ted Creed, to participate. Pioneer Printing printed tickets the organization's members would sell for \$1. All proceeds went to the club. On a designated date a winning ticket was drawn and the winner received a \$100 gift certificate to be used at a Neighbors Store.

How did it work? Can anyone imagine turning down a youngster asking for a \$1 donation? The winning ticket holder received a \$100 return for a \$1 wager. With each contest, Neighbors' name was shared with at least 1,000 buyers. In a matter of days, the campaign was concluded and the organization kept all proceeds. Mrs. Anne Garner's Life Skills class at Surry Central High School sold 3,400 tickets at the front door of Mount Airy's Walmart and took a trip to Opryland in Nashville, Tenn.

The Raffle became a community blessing. I'm guessing we executed more than 300 campaigns. Everybody won and looked forward to being involved. Hopefully, WIFM Radio 100.9 can resurrect this monumental legacy.

## Jerry Duncan

The Alabama Crimson Tide Alumni Association confers two Paul W. Bryant Alumni-Athlete Awards annually to recognize former athletes who since leaving the University of Alabama have made outstanding accomplishments in the areas of character, contributions to society, professional achievement, and service to their fellow man. All former letter winners are eligible. The awards are presented each year at the season's first football game in Tuscaloosa. One of the recipients in 1997 was our dear friend Jerry Duncan who graduated from Alleghany High School in 1963.

Jerry starred in all sports at Alleghany High and was a standout in football. With the help of Coach Grey Boyles, he won a full scholarship to Alabama. Jerry became a superstar offensive tackle under Coach Bear Bryant. He earned All-SEC honors in 1966 and is forever remembered for the tackle-eligible play that led to significant acclaim.

Jerry has enjoyed a career as a Certified Financial Planner in Birmingham, Ala. He also served as a sideline reporter for 24 years at the Crimson Tides' games. He is a grateful member of the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame and is an active member of the Birmingham Quarterback Club that benefits disadvantaged children. He and wife Karen, an interior decorator, are devoted grandparents and regulars at the Methodist Church. They attend most Crimson Tide games in Tuscaloosa an hour south of Birmingham. He is also a Christmas tree grower in Alleghany County in North Carolina and a supporter of the Alleghany County Educational Foundation.

We speak often, and Jerry sent the following words of advice written by columnist, inspirational speaker and podcaster Regina Brett:

- Life is short. Enjoy it.
- Your job won't take care of you when you are sick. Your friends and family will
- We don't have to win every argument.
- Cry with someone.
- Save for retirement.
- Resistance is futile for chocolate.
- Make peace with your past.
- Don't compare a life to others.
- If a relationship has to be a secret, we should not be in it.
- It's never too late to be happy. It's up to us.
- Go for what we love in life.
- Use the nice sheets.
- Be eccentric.
- We are in charge of happiness.
- Give time time.
- Only what we love makes us.
- Envy is a waste of time.
- The best is yet to come.
- Get up and show up.
- Life is a gift.

## Friends Bible Study

The Mount Airy Friends Bible Study honors me with the opportunity to share during our 10 a.m. class. Recent comments are shared below:

1. In the "Big Book" of Alcoholics Anonymous (1935) on page 59 are these assertions: "Half measures availed us nothing. We stand at the turning point. We asked His protection and care with complete abandon." At the Charlotte Treatment Center in May of 1986, I committed to giving my all to sobriety, and to this day it has worked — 38 years.

2. My stars were aligned in February of 1998 as I met Brent McKinney at the Brown-Regan Gymnasium. He has enriched my life greatly. Certainly cherish his influences.

3. Had several great years with Bob Johnson at Emory & Henry College. So admire his exemplary talent. He could teach Plato and Aristotle at 10 a.m. and coach his Wasp basketballers at 8 p.m. Once said, "Gary, you must be ready when the bell rings. We never have time to go back and get ready. Being prepared matters."

4. Surry Community College Executive Vice President of Finance Tony Martin is the most devoted report and teammate I've known. Always immaculately dressed. He serves the cause 24/7.

5. Larry Chaney sold us Neighbors #15 in 2005. He later stated, "Our Lord brought us together. Best deal for us ever. Everybody won. You always did exactly what you said."

6. In my 54 years in business, Melissa Daly, receptionist at Our State Magazine, has the best reception voice I've known. Absolutely the best!

## Surry County Beekeepers

WIFM Radio 100.9 is grateful to be a supporter of the Surry County Beekeepers. This group of advocates is diligently aspiring to promote the protection of viable honeybee hives.

Devoted members Jim Hughes and wife Rhonda of State Road compiled this list of bee facts:

- Bees are responsible for 33% of all foods.
- Our ecosystem depends on pollinators.
- Bees were introduced by European settlers.
- The queen bee may lay over 2,000 eggs daily.
- Male bees are called "drones." They have no stingers.
- Worker bees are female.
- Honeybees have four eyes and six legs.
- Average bee hives hold around 50,000 bees.
- Honeybees die after stinging.
- Honey is 25% sweeter than table sugar.
- Honeybees don't sleep.
- Honeybees are being used to study dementia.
- Bees' wings can beat 200 times per second.
- Worker bees live for six weeks.
- Honeybees can travel three miles daily.

## Joy Gardner

Most gifted writer and classmate at Mount Airy Friends Sunday School Joy Gardner frequently shares her musings. This one is from March 25:

### 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 meeting new ones, too.

It's not about things we have done  
Or all the places we've been.  
It's about where we are going  
And how the journey will end.

It's not about choices  
Or the lives we are living.  
It's choices we are making  
And the love we are giving.

It's not about blessings  
Or what we receive.  
It's about the WORD  
And how we believe.

—Joy Gardner

## Word Match Game answers

(from Page 3)

A. 16	F. 4	K. 6	P. 21	U. 18
B. 8	G. 14	L. 5	Q. 9	V. 10
C. 24	H. 22	M. 1	R. 22	W. 19
D. 12	I. 20	N. 3	S. 15	X. 23
E. 17	J. 11	O. 7	T. 13	



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