

Change your clock, Change your batteries

HICKORY, NC (March 2, 2018)...Is your smoke alarm working? On March 11 the spring time change will occur and this is a good time to make sure your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms are working.

"A working smoke alarm provides an early warning and critical extra seconds to escape. This is particularly important for those most at risk of dying in a home fire, such as children and seniors. Changing smoke alarm batteries once a year is one of the simplest, most effective ways to reduce these tragic deaths and injuries. In fact, a working smoke alarm nearly cuts in half the risk of dying in a home fire," states Hickory Fire Chief Fred Hollar.



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Hollar continues "To save lives and prevent needless injuries, the Hickory Fire Department reminds the public to change the batteries in their alarms. If Hickory residents do not own a smoke alarm or need help changing the batteries, I encourage them to contact their fire department immediately to receive assistance."

Although a large percent of American homes has smoke alarms, many do not work because of dead or missing batteries. Non-working smoke alarms are robbing residents of the protective benefits these critical home fire safety devices were designed to provide.

To check an alarm, firefighters recommend pushing the test button. The alarm should sound by the time you count to 10. Firefighters also suggest taking time to plan "two ways out" and to practice escape routes with the entire family.

Caldwell Journal Info

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Our Deadline Is On Friday At 5pm For Next Week's Paper

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Caldwell Journal Weather

Thursday (8th): Mostly cloudy & chilly.

High 47 Low 26
Precipitation: 0.00 in.

Friday (9th): Partly sunny.

High 53 Low 32
Precipitation: 0.00 in.

Saturday (10th): A couple of afternoon showers.

High 55 Low 43
Precipitation: 0.41 in.

Sunday (11th): Rain at times.

High 46 Low 35
Precipitation: 0.63 in.

Monday (12th): Clouds & sun.

High 50 Low 29
Precipitation: 0.00 in.

Tuesday (13th): Mostly sunny.

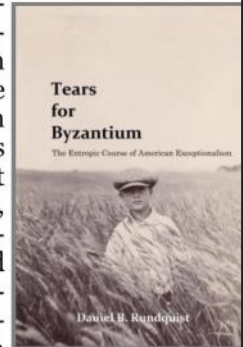
High 46 Low 28
Precipitation: 0.00 in.

Wednesday (14th): Partly sunny.

High 48 Low 26
Precipitation: 0.00 in.

New Plymouth Press, LLC announces release of new book title by local author – all net proceeds are designated to support local DAV

CALDWELL COUNTY, NC (November 7, 2017)... New Plymouth Press, LLC is proud to announce today that a new book will be released to the public on December 1, 2017. The author, Dan Rundquist has completed work on his nonfiction title, *Tears For Byzantium; The Entropic Course of American Exceptionalism*. The work seeks to address the question of what exactly is the proper size, role, and scope of American government in a post-9/11 world through the prism of world history. It is told by a father, taxpayer, and ordinary American citizen.



"I have wept for my nation until I am out of tears. Not from a personal depression, but with the deepest grief and sorrow as one might have for a dying loved one. The patient in this case is our nation, America, but she is not so much ill as she is being euthanized. I weep for her because I love my nation, and she is nearly lost to us. I have always loved my country, and I am not alone." *Dan Rundquist*

The Caldwell Journal has been awarded exclusive distribution of the e-book format...

This special edition of the book will be made available exclusively by a distribution agreement with the Caldwell Journal:

- The publisher has set the title price at \$4.99 and the author is donating ALL net proceeds for this special PDF edition to Disabled American Veterans, Chapter 6 Hudson, NC.
- ISBN: 978-0-9862967-8-9
- 151 pages, 8.5 x 11 PDF format, print volume is expected to release summer, 2018.
- Link to the Caldwell Journal: www.caldwelljournal.com
- Media inquiries, requests for advance copies for review can be made directly to the author at dbquist1986@gmail.com
- Inquiries to the Caldwell Journal: Mr. Mark Jackson, mark.jackson@caldwelljournal.com

Crafting Your Way through Grief to Begin March 13

LENOIR, NC (March 1, 2018)...Caldwell Hospice and Palliative Care is offering four Crafting Your Way through Grief sessions beginning March 13, 2018. The crafters will meet from 2 to 3:30 p.m., Tuesdays, March 13 through April 3, in the Wilson Meeting Room at Caldwell Hospice's Lenoir location, 902 Kirkwood St., NW, Lenoir. Creative endeavors following a loss can help the grieving express their grief. Expressing the personal experience of loss through meaningful activities is a therapeutic way of remembering someone lost. The Crafting Your Way through Grief Support Group provides an opportunity for creative expression and healing. A new craft will be created at each meeting with crafting materials supplied by Ashewood Grief and Counseling at no cost to participants. Discussion about the grief process and bereavement services available will be incorporated at each session. Space is limited. Facilitated by Bereavement Support Specialist Kimberly Setzer, MSW, LCSWA. To register or for more information, contact Kimberly Setzer at 828.754.0101 or ksetzer@caldwellhospice.org.

See the real Granite Falls

GRANITE FALLS, NC (March 3, 2018)...On Saturday, March 17, 2018, the Granite Falls Historical Association will host two (2) hikes to the falls that gave the Town its name. Both hikes will begin at the Granite Falls History and Transportation Museum located at 107 Falls Avenue. The first group will meet at noon, and the second at 2 p.m. The Association will serve refreshments (cake and drinks) in the Welcome Center. Members invite hikers to tour the museum, which will be open between noon and 4 p.m. In addition to historical items, there is a beautiful quilt exhibit during March. Visitors may vote for their favorite quilts. The owner of the quilt with the most votes will receive a People's Choice Award from the Granite Falls History Committee during a reception to be held at the museum on Sunday, March 25th from 2 until 4 p.m. The reception is open to the public. To register for the hike and receive additional information, please email gfhistoricalassociation@gmail.com or call (828) 396-1066. For more information about the museum and the Association, check out www.granitefallshistory-museum.org.

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Caldwell Journal Weekly Recipe

German Bread Dumplings

Ingredients

- 2 white bread rolls
- 1 tbsp vegetable oil
- 2 bacon strips, finely chopped
- 1 small onion, finely chopped
- 1 tbsp finely chopped parsley
- 1 tsp dried marjoram
- ½ cup whole milk
- 1 large egg
- All purpose flour, as needed

Instructions

Preheat the oven to 275°F (140°C). Cut the rolls into small cubes. Spread on a baking sheet. Bake about 30 minutes, until crisp. Heat the oil in a frying pan over medium heat. Add the bacon and onion and cook about 7 minutes. Stir in the herbs and let cool. Beat the milk and egg together in a bowl. Add the bread cubes and bacon mixture and stir well. The dough should be firm enough to shape into dumplings; if it is too soft, stir in flour as needed. Bring a large saucepan of water to a boil over high heat. With damp hands, form the dough into 8 dumplings. Add the dumplings to the water and cook about 10 minutes, or until cooked through. Drain carefully and serve hot.

CCC&TI Foundation Community Campaign Begins

HUDSON, NC (March 7, 2018)...The Foundation of Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute held its Annual Fund Campaign kickoff luncheon on Tuesday, March 6 at the J.E. Broyhill Civic Center in Lenoir.

Featuring community leaders, campaign volunteers, and college faculty and administrators, the event starts fundraising efforts for the Foundation's Annual Fund Drive. Peg Broyhill, Chair of the Foundation's Board of Directors, offered opening remarks and welcomed the crowd of supporters. Broyhill also announced the goal for this year's campaign as \$370,000, the highest to date for the campaign. Broyhill also announced that the Honorable Robert Brady and Sheila Triplett-Brady will lead the 2018 Annual Fund Drive campaign.



The couple, both having taught and attended classes at CCC&TI, eagerly accepted the invitation to co-chair the campaign due to their love for lifelong learning and the vital role the college serves in the community. Triplett-Brady shared a personal story about their daughter who earned her associates degree at CCC&TI and then went on Appalachian State University. "Her time at CCC&TI gave her the confidence to finish what she hadn't been able to finish before," she said. "We are a family of life-long learners. We're counting on you for a record-breaking Annual Fund Campaign."

Deborah Murray, Vice Chair of the Foundation and Director of the

Caldwell County Economic Development Commission, spoke to the group about the value of CCC&TI in the community. "CCC&TI plays a significant and critical role in recruitment and retention for many companies. In my opinion, there's not a more valuable partner in this region's economic development than the college," said Murray.

CCC&TI President Dr. Mark Poarch also addressed the group, sharing the college's success last year in serving more than 13,000 students and more than 750 curriculum graduates. He pointed out that by 2020, it is estimated that 67 percent of jobs will require some college education.

Poarch expressed his gratitude for the volunteers and their efforts each year to raise funds for the college. "We have a community of people who are dedicated to the success of our students, and we have a community of people who are committed to removing barriers for our citizens to access higher education," said Poarch. "Without your help, the ability to attend college and the hope for a better tomorrow would not be possible for many of our students." **Continued on page 5...**



CCC&TI Foundation Community Campaign Begins

Continued from page 4...

Several students also spoke at the event. Bailee Burleson, Dean Church and Amy Vue shared how scholarships and assistance through the Foundation have helped them pursue their educational goals. Burleson is the first recipient of the Jack and Shirley Robbins Scholarship and is working toward a degree in Nursing. "After much hard work, my dream will become a reality this May when I graduate from CCC&TI," said Burleson. "This scholarship was an answer to prayer and I am so thankful for this opportunity." Ophthalmic Medical Assistant student Amy Vue echoed that sentiment. "I want to thank each of you for giving me and other students the opportunity to continue our education," said Vue.

Broyhill introduced each of the team captains for this year's campaign. They are Dr. Mark Poarch, Peg Broyhill, Barbara Freiman, Barbara Weiller and Joan McGee, Guy Walters, Jr. and Wayne Keller, Deborah Murray and Mary Frances Sullivan.

Foundation Executive Director Marla Christie recognized the faculty and staff members at CCC&TI, who kicked off their portion of the campaign in February. To date, the employee campaign has raised more than \$30,000 and employees are continuing to bring in pledges.

CCC&TI students are also working to raise money for the campaign. The Student Government Association is hosting a Dinner and a Movie event on March 22 that will include a gourmet meal and the movie "Breathe." All proceeds from the event will go the Foundation Annual Fund. The event is open to the public.

Board priorities for this year's campaign include funding for scholarships, the Dream Award Program, childcare, student emergencies, academic support and professional development.

For more information on the Foundation of Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute, or to make a gift to the Annual Fund Drive, visit www.cccti.edu/foundation or contact the Foundation Office at 828-726-2260.

In top photo on previous page: Student and scholarship recipient Dean Church speaks to those gathered for the kick off of the CCC&TI Foundation Annual Fund Drive on Tuesday, March 6. The goal for this year's drive is \$370,000.

In bottom photo on previous page: Student and scholarship recipient Bailee Burleson speaks to those gathered for the kick off of the CCC&TI Foundation Annual Fund Drive on Tuesday, March 6. The goal for this year's drive is \$370,000.

Caldwell Heritage Museum March "Coffee with the Director"

LENOIR, NC (March 7, 2018)...Please join us on Wednesday, 21 March 2018 at 10:00 for Coffee with the Director as the Caldwell Heritage Museum hosts Glennie Sims as the morning's speaker. She will talk about the people she has met and relationships she has built while in France collecting stories from World War II.

This event is free, though a \$5 donation is greatly appreciated. The museum's primary funding source is through generous donations such as this.

Coffee and pastries will be provided.

This event will start promptly at 10:00 so please arrive a little early, enjoy some coffee, pastries and great fellowship.

For questions, please call the museum at 828-758-4004, Tuesday through Friday, 10:00 - 4:30; Saturday, 9:00 - 12:00.



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Blue Ridge Electric Members Foundation Accepting Grant Applications

LENOIR, NC (March 7, 2018)...The Blue Ridge Electric Members Foundation is now accepting applications for the 2018 grant cycle and will continue through the application deadline date of July 31, 2018. The grants seek to fund projects related to improving health and wellness, education, economic and community development, the environment, and other quality of life initiatives. Grants are available for nonprofit organizations serving the Blue Ridge Energy service areas in Caldwell, Watauga, Ashe, Alleghany, Avery, Alexander, Burke, Catawba and Wilkes counties of North Carolina and Grayson County, Virginia.

The Blue Ridge Electric Members Foundation funds approximately a dozen community grants each year ranging from \$1,000 to \$5,000. For the 2018 grant cycle, just over \$100,000 is projected to be available for funding consideration. The Foundation Advisory Committee, an all-volunteer group of cooperative members, will review all applications and make grant recommendations to the Blue Ridge Energy Board of Directors at their November board meeting. Grant recipients will be announced in early December.

The Blue Ridge Electric Members Foundation was formed in 2007 to expand the cooperative's mission of helping local communities in its service area. Foundation funds are used in two ways: to provide crisis electric bill assistance to members who find themselves in need of emergency financial help; and to support longer-term efforts of organizations that help sustain and build communities for improving the local quality of life. Since 2007, the Blue Ridge Electric Members Foundation has awarded 213 grants totaling over \$1,000,000. Funding for Foundation grants comes from members participating in Blue Ridge Energy's Operation Round Up® and Operation Round Up Plus® programs as well as contributions from the cooperative's propane heating fuels and telecommunications subsidiaries.

Nearly 30,000 members are either rounding up their monthly electric bill through the cooperative's Operation Round Up® programs or by donating all or a portion of their capital credits.

Applications for the grant cycle and helpful information about the Blue Ridge Electric Members Foundation can be found at <https://www.blueridgeenergy.com/community> or by contacting Grey Scheer, director of community relations, at gscheer@blueridgeenergy.com.

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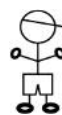
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HEALTH DEPARTMENT



Two Caldwell Hospice CNAs Receive National Certification

LENOIR, NC (March 1, 2018)...Regina Dishman and Alicia McGee, certified nursing assistants from Caldwell Hospice and Palliative Care, have received national certification in their field.

Both received the Certified Hospice and Palliative Care Nursing Assistant (CHPNA) designation after passing the governing body's national certification examination and meeting other clinical requirements.

Dishman, who has worked in a number of clinical settings including long-term care before joining the Caldwell Hospice team, is a graduate of Western Piedmont Community College. She says she pursued the national certification as means of helping better serve her patients.



"I want as much training as possible in my job. Healthcare is always changing, and when we learn new ways, we benefit our patients," she explains.

When she first began working at Caldwell Hospice, Dishman says she was not sure she would be able to do the work because she knew the loss of patients would be difficult for her. However, she adds, "When my first patient died after six months of care, I cried with the family. It hurt. It broke my heart for what they were going through and it hurt to lose a person who had impacted my life the way this patient did.

Continued on page 9...

Two Caldwell Hospice CNAs Receive National Certification

Continued from page 8...

When I saw I could hurt with families over their loved ones, and it was okay to have these feelings, I knew that God placed me at CHPC.”

A graduate of Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute, McGee worked in home health and long-term care before joining Caldwell Hospice. She says, she always knew she wanted to do hospice care, and a friend who worked at Caldwell Hospice encouraged her to try it.

“I love working for this organization. It gives me a feeling of self-worth,” she says. “I feel like I make a difference each day I work with my patients, just seeing their smiling faces gives me the encouragement I need to keep making a difference.”

The Hospice and Palliative Certification Center (HPCC) is a competence-based Board representing a wide variety of geographic areas, practice settings, and educational backgrounds. HPCC is responsible for the development and oversight of certification for the specialty of nursing in hospice and palliative care.

In addition to passing the national examination, to be eligible for the Certified Hospice and Palliative Nursing Assistant (CHPNA) designation, applicants must have 500 hours of hospice and palliative practice in the last 12 months or 1,000 hours in the most recent 24 months.

Caldwell Hospice and Palliative Care is a community-based, not-for-profit hospice care provider licensed by the State of North Carolina, certified by Medicare, and accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Health Care.

For more information about Caldwell Hospice and Palliative Care call 828.754.0101, visit www.caldwellhospice.org, or follow on Facebook.

In top photo on previous page: Alicia McGee

In bottom photo on previous page: Regina Dishman

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Bethlehem Baptist Church to Host Allan Taylor Conference on March 18

BETHLEHEM, NC (March 4, 2018)...Allan Taylor, Director of Sunday School and Church Education Ministry at Lifeway Christian Resources in Nashville, TN, will lead a conference to encourage and equip believers to reach their community through Sunday School. Taylor conducts many Sunday School and leadership conferences, both nationally and internationally, and mentors, instructs, and encourages Christian educators and Sunday School leaders. He has written two books: *The Six Core Values of Sunday School* and *Sunday School in HD*; and released three DVD training series: *Sunday School Done Right*, *Forward From Here*, and *Sunday School Matters*.

Bethlehem Baptist Church, 7500 NC Hwy 127, Taylorsville, NC, will host the event following the morning worship service on Sunday, March 18, 12:30 to 5pm. A light lunch will be provided at 11:45am.

This conference is not just for Sunday School teachers at Bethlehem Baptist. It is for anyone interested in using the Sunday School ministry of their church to reach the community for Jesus Christ.

If you would like to more effectively use Sunday School in your church, call 828.495.7250 to register by Thursday, March 15. There is no cost to attend, but registration is requested.

Getting into the building may look a little confusing due to construction, but just follow the signs to park behind the building. Entrances from the parking area are to the far left and far right. Guest parking is available near the building, and greeters will welcome you just inside the door.

For more information about Bethlehem Baptist Church, call 828.495.7250, visit www.bethlehembc.org, or like them on Facebook.

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“Movies with Mike”

The Hope of Art by Mike Holsclaw (March 5th, 2018)



(I wrote the following post just a little more than three weeks ago but, on a hunch, I held off on actually publishing it until after the Academy awards. It wasn't that I really was that sure that "The Shape of Water" would win both Best Picture and Best Director but I felt it would definitely make a good showing for itself in at least the technical and musical categories it was nominated in. It's not that I'm all that prescient but, after all these years of avid movie watching, I know a good film when I see one. Other than this new introduction, the post has not been altered in any way.)

Sunday night, Shawn, Matt, and I went to see "The Shape of Water", Guillermo del Toro's latest film and I have to say that it was the very tonic for a thirsty soul.

del Toro is one of my favorite directors; he's such a visual stylist, masterfully using art direction and set design to fill every frame with sumptuous detail, such that, even if he wasn't a talented storyteller,

there's always plenty of things in his films to delight the senses. Luckily, that's not really a concern, though, because he's also a master of narrative and "The Shape of Water" proved to be no exception.

As unexpected as it might be, one of the touchstones and tutelary spirits of this film is the classic Hollywood musical. From its opening moment, del Toro fills our ears with the stirring strains of Alexandre Desplat's luxuriant score; the music serves as a sometimes wistful Greek chorus, gently providing an occasionally ironic counterpoint to the details of protagonist Elisa Esposito's quietly desperate existence. As we familiarize ourselves with her daily routine, I was pleasantly surprised that the films I was most reminded of were Jacques Demy's "Umbrellas of Cherbourg" and, one of my favorite films from last year, "La La Land". This was no accident; along with carefully selected songs from the period, Desplat's score works much like a musical to evoke the atmosphere of early 1960's America. In addition, it also illustrates and amplifies the emotional lives of the film's characters.

One reviewer has remarked that, in addition to having a sensibility modeled on classic musicals, the film also draws on the color palette of animated cartoons and occasionally indulges in the murkiness of film noir. I would go further and say that, in contrast to his earlier masterpieces, "The Devil's Backbone" and "Pan's Labyrinth", "The Shape of Water" presents a world that has a wider range of chromatic expressiveness. Perhaps because it takes place in the technicolor tangerine dream of postwar America, "Water" doesn't have the same predominance of earth colors found in those earlier films; instead, because it depicts the ultra-mundane but still heightened reality of Baltimore circa 1962, along with all of its attendant neon glitz, it has a fuller spectrum to display.

By coincidence, just before seeing the film, I had been reading "The Political Teachings of Jesus" by Tod Lindgren and "The Age of Atheists" by Peter Watson (don't ask) and it was somewhat bemusing to note how both books seemed to have something to say about this movie: The four most central characters in the film, Elisa, Giles, Zelda and the "Amphibian Man" all qualify as "poor in spirit" or, in the more bloodless clinical language of today, the marginal or disenfranchised. For one reason or another, they all have been pushed to the fringes of their society and they are all variously seen as valueless, inconsequential, odd, or freakish. Yet, as Jesus saw and as these characters come to realize, they are actually the "blessed" because, from their positions of relative poverty and social powerlessness, they can more clearly see those things that are of the greatest value in life: friendship, love, empathy, and compassion.

On the other hand, the villain of the piece, Richard Strickland, vividly manifests all the worst qualities of the oppressor: insecurity masquerading as smug self-assurance, sadism as self-deceiving machismo, and contempt as self-righteousness. *Continued on page 13...*

The Hope of Art by Mike Holsclaw (March 5th, 2018)
Continued from page 12...

Although the phrase is so over used as to have become a cliché, he is the poster boy of white privilege.

As regards "the Age of Atheists", Peter Watson argues that once the intellectuals of Europe had lost their religious belief, many of them turned to art as a substitute for the salvation once offered by their faith in the Divine. Based on interviews I have heard with del Toro in the past, I know that he too has fallen away from the Catholicism of his youth. I often think that, because so many of the films he has made are works of fantasy, that he is also striving to re-sacralize a hopelessly secular world, that he feels, at least on some level, that he will accomplish some type of transcendence through his exploration of myth, fairytale, and legend.

Because his knowledge of these realms is so extensive, though, he doesn't offer some simplistic alternative to traditional religion. In "Water", for instance, he readily acknowledges that the story is a re-working of "Beauty and the Beast" (cross-pollinated with his love of "The Creature from the Black Lagoon") but he reminds us that, in the earliest versions of the tale, the beast, though transformed, is never completely domesticated, that he retains elements of wildness that can't be totally eradicated by his return to civilization. So, it is with the "Amphibian Man"; del Toro, somewhat ingeniously, I think, hits upon a satisfying conclusion for his modern-day fairytale (whether it fits the category of "happy ending" you'll have to decide for yourself) but his creature is not compromised in the process; it may well be that, at film's end, he remains, as some people in the film speculate, an Amazonian river god.

Whatever the case may be, del Toro has created a mature and deeply satisfying meditation on the intersection of wonder with the everyday world and the fathomless optimism afforded us by the (still surprising) existence of love. Whatever woes I may have carried into the theater were momentarily cross-circuited by the cheerfulness of his vision and, frankly, that's good enough for me!

**Poetry in LA: Only in LA
 (L.A. Poems)**

Paperback November 2, 2017

Poetry about L.A. (east in North Carolina). These poems are taken from the Facebook page, Poetry in LA (@poetryinla) created by LB Sedlacek. Poems are about Hixbriten Mountain, the annual Sculpture Fest, the annual Blackberry Festival, Wilson Creek, Highway 1890, the antique car shows, old timey buildings, and the general way of life in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountain area that locals fondly call "LA." for Lenoir Area.



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Caldwell Heritage Museum will host author Michael Hardy

LENOIR, NC (March 7, 2018)...Caldwell Heritage Museum will host author Michael Hardy on Thursday, 22 March 2018 at 7:00 PM. Mr. Hardy's talk will be based on his new book, Kirk's Civil War Raids Along the Blue Ridge, and will include the areas of Caldwell, Watauga, Burke, McDowell, etc. You are encouraged to bring your questions for discussion afterward.

Mr. Hardy has a passion for nineteenth-century Southern history. He is considered the "nation's foremost author on the Confederate Soldier," and his writing "adds flesh to the vast gaps in the official Confederate records." He has penned twenty-three books, including two new releases for 2018: General Lee's Immortals, a history of the Branch-Lane Brigade (Savas Beatie) and Kirk's Civil War Raids along the Blue Ridge (History Press.) His articles have appeared in numerous magazines and was featured in the recent Blood and Fury: American's Civil War on the American Heroes Channel. In 2010 Mr. Hardy was named the North Carolina Historian of the Year by the North Carolina Society of Historians. He is a graduate of the University of Alabama, and has called North Carolina home since 1995.

Tickets are \$10 for this event. You may purchase your ticket prior to 22 March at the museum or at the door the night of the event. Seating is limited so get your ticket before they are sold out. Please call the museum at 82-758-4004 if you have any questions.

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Author and Baptist pastor David Simon to speak at Little Rock Baptist Church

BOOMER, NC (March 7, 2018)...Author and Baptist pastor David Simon will be speaking at Little Rock Baptist Church of Boomer, NC, on Sunday March 18th at 7 p.m The evening presentation is designed to recreate the events which took place in the upper room on the night before Jesus was crucified. The outline is based on the order of the Passover dinner as it was celebrated throughout Israel during the time of Jesus. The normal Passover has been modified, with explanations, so those present will experience the eye-witness account as shared by the Apostle John in the thirteenth through sixteenth chapters of his gospel. During the presentation, elements of both the Jewish Passover and the traditional Lord's Supper will be shared with those who are present.

Reverend Simon was born into a Jewish family and celebrated the Passover every year during the spring. At the age of sixteen, David was introduced to the Christian faith and committed his life to the ministry before graduating high school. Reverend Simon is a graduate of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary of Louisville, Kentucky. During his time of study in Louisville he was asked by the Messianic community to write and present a Messianic Passover Seder for the local Jewish-Christian community.

The Christian Lord's Supper, Communion and Eucharistic traditions arise from, and are a very condensed version of the Jewish Passover service. Mark wrote in his Gospel, **"Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread, when they killed the Passover lamb, His disciples said to Him, 'Where do You want us to go and prepare, that You may eat the Passover?'" (14:12)** Reverend Simon desires to share the link between Jewish and Christian traditions so church members can fully understand the events that took place in the Upper Room. David shares, "When Christians more fully understand the context of the first Lord's Supper, they have a deeper appreciation for a two thousand year old tradition which is all too often presented in an extremely abridged manner."

The Passover Seder, which has been celebrated in Jewish communities for over 3,500 years, tells the story of how God freed His people Israel from the bondage and ravages of slavery to Egypt. The symbolic action commanded by God in order to protect the first-born males of each household was to place the blood of a sacrificed lamb on the home's front doorposts. In its Christian representation, Jesus is the Passover Lamb who gives his life on the cross, so when people accept his forgiveness from from the ravages of sin they can be freed from its slavery and redeemed to eternal salvation.

David Simon, who lives in Mooresville, NC, has shared his presentation of the Lord's Supper in the Passover across the United States. He is the author of five books: Spring: Connecting with God; A Christian Passover in the Jewish Tradition; The Case of the Missing Body: A Walk-Thru Drama for Easter; Advent Journeys; and Israel: Stories for Your Journey.

Little Rock Baptist Church is located at 248 Little Rock Church Rd, Boomer, NC 28606. Pastor Hal Greene invites everybody to come and participate in the events of the evening on Sunday, March 18, beginning at 7:00 p.m. The presentation is free, and the speaker will be available after the evening's worship service to answer any questions.

For more information contact Hal Greene, pastor of the church at 336-921-3160

Key Practices of the Christian Life

Practice #2: PRAYER

“Do not be anxious for anything, but in everything, by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.” Philippians 4:6

Prayer is one of the greatest ways we relate to God. If you really want to grow in your relationship with God, you must grow in prayer. Like any relationship, love is spelled T-I-M-E. We must give daily time to being in God's presence in prayer if our love for God is going to grow. Below is a simple method for prayer that you may find helpful in your life.

Step One – Give Thanks (5-10 minutes)

As you go to the Lord, praise Him for who He is and thank Him for what He has done. Make it your goal to ask nothing of God for the first few minutes of your time of prayer but just worship Him. This will help your mind and heart to become wonderfully focused as you come before the Lord. You will come to realize afresh what a great and mighty God you relate to every day.

Step Two – Prepare Your Heart (5-10 minutes)

Reflecting on God's greatness causes us see our own need more clearly. We know we have sinned, so we confess our sins, knowing God through Christ is faithful to cleanse us and draw us back into fellowship with Him. We know we cannot live the Christian life alone, so we call on God to empower us, to fill us with the fruit of the Spirit and to use us in His service.

Step Three – Prayers of Intercession (10-15 minutes)

After praising God and preparing your heart, begin to bring specific needs to God. One way to focus your mind in intercessory prayer is to begin with yourself and slowly move your requests out to family, friends, church, town, nation and world. Or you can go in the opposite direction, beginning to pray for the world and then narrowing it down to your own life at the end.

Step Four – Pray the Word (5 minutes)

It is a good idea, at the close of your prayer time, to come back to the Scripture you studied during your time in the Word and begin to pray through it. You may praise God for something you learned there or ask Him to work some principle you saw into your life or you may just want to pray back to the Lord some particularly meaningful portion of Scripture you read that day. Reflecting in prayer on the Word you studied can be a wonderful way to connect what you heard from God to what He heard from you. In this way, your relationship with God is strengthened and spiritual maturity can grow.

As you can see, the combined time between the Word and prayer each morning will be about 1 hour. This is a big commitment. Spiritual growth is a big commitment. If godliness is great gain, like Paul says to Timothy, we should give ourselves to spiritual growth. Try it for a month. It takes a month for any discipline to take hold in our lives. Try this approach for a month. I am confident that for many of you, if you really try this approach, you will never look back.

By Pastor Scott Frady
of West Hickory Baptist Church
40 12th Street NW, Hickory, NC