



99-year-old Granite Falls WWII Veteran Jessie Bowman receives early birthday present

Story on page three...

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

Caldwell Journal

Caldwell Journal Weather

Thursday (21st): Sunshine & patchy clouds.
High 61 Low 42
Precipitation: 0%

Friday (22nd): Mainly cloudy.
High 64 Low 49
Precipitation: 25%

Saturday (23rd): Cooler with occasional rain.
High 52 Low 41
Precipitation: 67%

Sunday (24th): Times of clouds & sun.
High 52 Low 30
Precipitation: 15%

Monday (25th): Sunshine.
High 56 Low 31
Precipitation: 7%

Tuesday (26th): Partly sunny.
High 57 Low 40
Precipitation: 25%

Wednesday (27th): A shower possible.
High 61 Low 39
Precipitation: 30%

N.C. pecan growers prevail, good crop for Thanksgiving

RALEIGH, NC (November 18, 2019) -- Pecan pie lovers can celebrate. The North Carolina pecan growers have a good crop ahead of the holidays despite a relatively dry summer and damages sustained during last year's hurricane season.

That is good news for consumers wanting to incorporate local ingredients into their Thanksgiving meals.

"Reports from growers are showing a good quantity and quality of pecans this year, with pecan season running into December," said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler.

The department encourages consumers to look for the Got To Be NC logo on packaged pecans, visit local farmers markets or take a trip to more than two dozen pecan orchards across the state. Dec. 13 will be Pecan Day at the State Farmers Market, where visitors can get free samples of a pecan dessert, plus mouth-watering pecan recipes to try at home.

The N.C. Pecan Growers Association offers an online directory to help consumers find local pecan orchards at www.buyncpecans.com. The website also includes pecan recipes and downloadable activities for children.

North Carolina is one of the Top 10 pecan-producing states in the nation. While pecans are grown across the state, the majority of commercial orchards are located in Eastern and Southeastern North Carolina.

Fourteenth Annual Festival On The Square

GRANITE FALLS, NC (November 20, 2019) -- The Fourteenth Annual Festival on the Square Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony will be held Monday, November 25, 2019 in downtown Granite Falls. The Festival begins at 6:15 p.m. but we encourage everyone to come early to see the 27 Christmas trees decorated by local school groups and civic organizations as part of the "Light Up Granite Falls" event. Festival attendees can enjoy beautiful live Christmas music from local school choruses and bands and the community choir. Several downtown businesses and faith-based organizations will have booths providing free refreshments and there will be a special appearance by Santa Claus. This event has always provided great fun for the entire family. Due to limited seating, we encourage you to bring a comfortable lawn chair and enjoy the beginning of the holiday season in historic downtown Granite Falls. We hope to see you there for the first snowfall of the season!

This project was supported by the N.C. Arts Council, a division of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

99-year-old Granite Falls WWII Veteran Jessie Bowman receives early birthday present

LENOIR, NC (November 19, 2019) -- Jessie Bowman of Granite Falls, a WWII Veteran, received an early birthday present from Wesley Parlier on Tuesday, November 19, 2019. Jessie will turn 100 next month on December 28th.

Jessie's present was a plane ride in a beautifully restored 1941 Boeing PT-17 Stearman biplane - planes like this were used as trainers during WWII. The plane is owned by Granite Falls/Hickory native and South Caldwell High School graduate Wesley Parlier. Wesley has been flying for over 35 years. He took his first flying lesson at age 18 in a Cessna 152 and currently flies Boeing 757's and 767's for United Airlines. So needless to say, Jessie Bowman was in very good hands.

Wesley said it was a great honor to take Jessie for a plane ride.



Jessie said that he was a little apprehensive yet excited about a ride in the plane. After the flight, he said he enjoyed it very much and was glad to be back on the ground. He certainly has a new story to share.

Jessie was drafted into the army in 1944 and fought the Germans throughout the European campaign. He was a gunner operator of an 80mm mortar with company D, 345th infantry of the 87th division. He fought in the battle of Morcy and then went on to the Ardennes Forest and the Black Forest. He also fought in the Battle of the Bulge, St. Vith and then crossed the Moselle River into Koblenz on the Rhine River and finished up fighting to help liberate Plauen in Northern Germany.

In photo above: Wesley Parlier and Jessie Bowman.

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Laura Bush Sedlacek of Bush and Associates achieves nation-wide recognition for helping consumers with qualified health coverage

LENOIR, NC (November 19, 2019) -- Laura Bush Sedlacek of Bush and Associates has been recognized for her hard work and expertise in helping consumers enroll in and manage qualified health coverage through the Health Insurance Marketplace.

This achievement from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) as a member of the 2020 Marketplace Circle of Champions highlights Laura Bush Sedlacek's success in actively enrolling 20 or more consumers during this Open Enrollment Period.

"Agents and brokers play a vital role in helping consumers access qualified health coverage and navigate their new health insurance plans throughout the year," said Randy Pate, Director of the Center for Consumer Information & Insurance Oversight within CMS, which oversees the Marketplace. "We thank Laura Bush Sedlacek for her dedication to providing exceptional service in helping Americans get coverage."

The Marketplace Circle of Champions program recognizes the hard work, expertise, and service of Marketplace-registered agents and brokers. Agents and brokers who assist 20 or more consumers qualify for the Marketplace Circle of Champions.

Eligible consumers can enroll in Marketplace coverage during this year's Open Enrollment Period, which runs November 1 – December 15, 2019. Consumers with questions about their coverage or who would like help enrolling, can contact Laura Bush Sedlacek at (828) 754-2601, Bush and Associates 916 Wilkesboro Blvd. Lenoir NC, quotes@bushandassociates.net or <http://www.mynchealthplan.com>

Caldwell Men's Chorus Fall Concert

LENOIR, NC (November 20, 2019) -- On this Saturday, November 23rd at 7:30 PM, the Caldwell Men's Chorus will present its annual fall concert in the Sanctuary of Lenoir Presbyterian Church, 1002 Kirkwood Street in Lenoir. The concert is free and open to the public. Special guests will be Brian Clark, Gregory Knight, Matthew Davis, Bailey McCowan, Abby Mastrovito and Richard Pinson. Numbers performed by the chorus will include "I Got Plenty of Nothin'," "Black is the Color of My True Love's Hair," "Red River Valley," "Don't Fence Me In," "Ghost Riders In the Sky," "A Roving," "Old Swansea Town Once More," "Landscape," "Sunrise, Sunset," and "Climb Ev'ry Mountain," among others. The chorus is a 501c3 non-profit organization, comprised of talented men who love to sing, ranging in age from 15 - 80. Singers for this concert include Jonathan Duncan, Doug McCowan, Glen Neal, Sherrill German, Allen Norrod, Ken Thwing, Jerry Brooks, William Claude Cogdell, Tom Davis, Adam Lowery, Robert Marshall, Tim Boone, Andrew Casturao, Lucas Duncan, Trev Moore and Rankin Whittington. Accompanist is Gregory Knight, assisted by Sandra Whittington and Director is Keith Smith. Smith says, "Our concerts are always an eclectic blend of styles of music and we have a lot of passion and we have a lot of fun because we love to sing! This concert, as always, will present some fun surprises and will feature several fine individual artists, including Greg Knight playing a piece that he will perform in the Van Cliburn Competition next summer in Fort Worth, Texas." No tickets are necessary. Just show up the night of the concert.

Women's Resource Center Receives \$13,000 Grant from The Corning Incorporated foundation

HICKORY, NC (November 4, 2019) -- Women's Resource Center (WRC), a local nonprofit that works to empower women in the community through workforce development, enrichment programs, advocacy and community partnerships, received a \$13,000 grant on November 4th 2019. The Corning Incorporated Foundation awarded the grant to Women's Resource Center in support of their "Long Term Case Management Program". The program works with women for up to a year to provide job-seeking assistance, mentorship, skill building, free counseling, help with housing, and other resources.

"We are so grateful to The Corning Incorporated Foundation for this wonderful gift", says Programs Director, Kelley Hayward. "These funds will enable us to make a marked difference in the lives of the women we serve."

To learn more about Women's Resource Center and the other programs and services they provide contact the Center at 828-322-6333.

The Corning Incorporated Foundation is a charitable contributions organization established by Corning Incorporated in 1952. Through leadership and collaboration, the Foundation strives to foster vibrant, enriching, and supportive Corning communities. The Foundation focuses on education, human services, culture, and volunteerism in Corning business locations.

Caldwell Pregnancy Care Center (CPCC) is looking for mature men to mentor fathers. This volunteer opportunity will consist of 2-3 hours per week and the impact you may have on a family could last for eternity. Please call CPCC at 828-757-9555 or come by and pick up an application.

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Caldwell Hospice Good Grief Meal to Be Held December 5

LENOIR, NC (November 18, 2019) -- Caldwell Hospice and Palliative Care will hold its next monthly Good Grief Meal at 3pm, Thursday, December 5, at Southern Crossroads, 129 Wilkesboro Blvd., NE, Lenoir, NC. The informal time of food and fellowship is open to anyone who is experiencing grief and loss. The meal is Dutch treat.

The Good Grief Meal is sponsored through Ashewood Grief and Counseling Services, grief support services of Caldwell Hospice, and is one of many opportunities offered to help individuals of all ages and families cope with the loss of people they love. Because of the generous support of our community and the belief that grief support services improve quality of life, Caldwell Hospice offers community grief support services to anyone who needs help in coping with grief. For more information about the upcoming Good Grief Meal or other grief support services, call 828.754.0101, or visit www.caldwellhospice.org or the Caldwell Hospice and Palliative Care Facebook page.

Coping with the Holidays

LENOIR, NC (November 18, 2019) -- The holiday season can be emotionally stressful when you are coping with a loss of a loved one. The grief support services of Caldwell Hospice will offer Coping with the Holidays on Thursday, December 5, 2019, from 6 to 7:30 p.m., at McCreary Family Professional Center, 526 Pine Mountain Road, Hudson, NC.

Caldwell Hospice Bereavement Coordinator Kimberly Setzer, MSW, LCSW, will lead a discussion about ways of planning holiday events, remembering the missing loved ones, avoiding additional stress, and caring for yourself during a festive but difficult time.

Caldwell Hospice is committed to providing grief support services to anyone who needs and wants help in coping with their grief, including those with no hospice affiliation. Sponsored through Ashewood Grief and Counseling Services, the grief support services of Caldwell Hospice, and through the generous support of the community, Coping with the Holidays is one of many education/fellowship opportunities offered to help individuals of all ages cope with the loss of people they love.

To enroll in this limited seating educational event, please RSVP by calling 828.754.0101 or emailing ksetzer@caldwellhospice.org. To learn more about all grief support services, call or visit www.caldwellhospice.org or Facebook.





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*Benefit quoted and monthly premium (rate) is for Plan G quoting a female, non-tobacco and is effective until May 31, 2020. ¹ Based on Blue Cross NC internal data, November 2018. Rates are subject to change June 1 of each year, but members will not be singled out for premium increases based on their individual health. ®, SM Marks of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association. The agency is an independent entity that has been appointed as an authorized agent of Blue Cross NC. Blue Cross NC is an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

U3198c, 3/19

Women's Resource Center names Michelle Morgan as new Executive Director

HICKORY, NC (November 20, 2019) -- At their November meeting, the Board of Directors of Women's Resource Center unanimously named Michelle Morgan as their new Executive Director. Michelle began her career at Women's Resource Center nearly four years ago as the Resource Development Coordinator and had been serving as Interim Director since June. "Since taking on the role as Interim Director, Michelle has gone above and beyond the board's expectations. Her seamless transition into the role made the decision to make her the permanent Executive Director an easy one," says, Board President, Juliet Good. Juliet adds, "The Center is fortunate to have such a strong replacement moving into 2020."

Michelle was born and raised in Kentucky, where she attended the University of Kentucky, majoring in Dental Hygiene. Michelle recently received her Nonprofit Management Certificate from Duke University. More than twenty years ago, Michelle made her home in Hickory, NC, where she raised her daughter Sydney Shepherd.

Michelle enjoys volunteering and contributing to her community. She has served as a board member for several area nonprofits and currently serves on the North Carolina Community Foundation Grant Allocations Committee for NC School of the Arts. In 2018, she ran for the Catawba County Board of Commissioners. She is a court appointed children's advocate (GAL), volunteers regularly with the Open Door Homeless Outreach Program, and is Community Outreach Chair for the Rotary Club of Catawba Valley. Michelle is also a Pilates Instructor, an avid runner, folk art collector, and amateur painter. Her daughter Sydney is an actor and musician in New York City. She lives in Hickory with her husband, attorney Bill Morgan, and their feisty Terrier mix, "Augie".

Michelle was a stay-at-home mom for many years while raising her daughter and has worn several hats working in the sales field. Her passion for helping others led her to her "dream job" at Women's Resource Center- working to empower other women in the community.

Women's Resource Center has been serving the community for over thirty years. The Center is located at 125 3rd Street NE in Hickory. For more information on the services and programs provided by Women's Resource Center, call 828.322.6333.

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Three arrests made in Lenoir after shooting

LENOIR, NC (November 19, 2019) -- On November 18, 2019 at around 2:35 PM the Lenoir Police Department received a report of a possible shooting in the 500 block of Arlington circle in Lenoir. Upon arriving in the area officers located one victim, Kashton Javon Harshaw – 26 years of age – of Lenoir, suffering from apparent gunshots to his lower extremities. Harshaw was transported to Caldwell UNC Healthcare, then later transported by ambulance to Carolina's Medical Center with serious injuries.

Based on witness statements gathered at the scene multiple suspects were involved in an altercation at 520-A Arlington Circle that resulted in the shooting. As a result of the investigation three subjects were arrested. Derek Dusean Davis Jr. – 21 years of age – of Frontier Way in Lenoir was charged with Felony Assault with a Deadly Weapon Inflicting Serious injury for shooting Harshaw. Davis was placed in the Caldwell County Jail under a \$50,000.00 secured bond. Davis' first appearance is scheduled for 11/20/2019 in District Court. Daniel Jeremiah Minton – 22 years of age – of Blowing Rock Boulevard in Lenoir was charged with (4) counts of Felony Discharging a Firearm or Barreled Weapon into an Occupied Dwelling for shooting into the residence of 520-A Arlington Circle. D. Minton was placed in the Caldwell County Jail under a \$100,000.00 secured bond. D. Minton's first appearance is scheduled for 11/20/2019 in District Court. Jonathan David Minton – 24 years of age – of Blowing Rock Boulevard in Lenoir was charged with Misdemeanor Carrying a Concealed Firearm. J. Minton was placed in the Caldwell County Jail under a \$3000.00 secured bond and he has a court date scheduled for 01/06/2020.

During the initial moments following the call Horizons Elementary School, 332 Greenhaven Drive was placed on lock down only due to the proximity of the shooting and the time of the call. The investigation is ongoing and no other information is available for release at this time.

Anyone with information relating to this or any other crime is asked to contact the Lenoir/Caldwell County Crime Stoppers at 758-8300 or the Lenoir Police Department at 757-2100.

Two arrested in Lenoir for Drug/Weapons Violations

LENOIR, NC (November 19, 2019) -- On November 18th, 2019 at 9:23 am officers with the Lenoir Police Traffic unit along with officers from the Narcotics Unit stopped a white 2009 Cadillac passenger car near 1346 Norwood St. Lenoir, NC. The driver of the vehicle was identified as Elijah Rashard Gibbs. The passenger in the vehicle was Madison Lily Ruggles.

Gibbs had several outstanding warrants which included 2 counts of Misd. Assault by Pointing a Gun, 1 count of Misd. Breaking & Entering, and 1 count of Communicating Threats. Gibbs was arrested and the vehicle was searched. During the search officers found 154.30 grams of cocaine and \$791.00 in US currency within the center console. According to North Carolina State guidelines, the seized cocaine was valued at \$15,430.00. The officers also found a stolen Smith and Wesson .40 caliber pistol in the glove compartment. The pistol had been reported stolen from Catawba County. As a result, Gibbs was also charged with 1 count of Felony Possession of a Stolen Firearm, 1 count of Felony Possession of a Firearm by a Felon, 1 count of Misd. Carrying a Concealed Weapon, 1 count of Felony Trafficking in Cocaine, 1 count of Felony Maintaining a Vehicle for the Purpose of Controlled Substance, 1 count of Possession of Controlled Substance within 1,000 ft. of a School, 1 count of Misd. Driving While License Revoked, 1 count of Misd. Open Container of Liquor, and 1 count of Left of Center.

Ruggles was also arrested. She was charged with 1 count of Possession of a Stolen Firearm, 1 count of Trafficking in Cocaine, and 1 count of Possession of Controlled Substance within 1,000 feet from a school. When Ruggles was searched officers located 3.2 grams of Marijuana in her clothing. According to North Carolina State guidelines, the seized Marijuana was valued at \$25.00. Subsequently she was charged with 1 count of Simple Possession of Schedule VI controlled Substance.

Gibbs received a combined bond of \$206,500.00 and an initial court date of 11/20/2019 while Ruggles received a bond of \$76,000.00 an initial court date is also scheduled for 11/20/2019.

Events at Dry Ponds Baptist Church

On Sunday, November 24th. It's our free Thanksgiving Community Meal. It will be held in the Dry Ponds Baptist Church Fellowship Hall from 4:30 – 6 pm. All are welcome! (I'm also sharing, with you, the Facebook event link: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1334905043346212/> if you want to share it with the Facebook post.)

We are also having our annual Hanging of the Greens service on Sunday, December 1st at 6:00 pm. All are welcome to attend as we prepare our sanctuary & hearts for the arrival of Jesus.

Union Grove Baptist Church will have the Whisnants and the Mark Trammel Quartet in concert on Sunday, November 24 at 6:00pm. Everyone is invited! Call 728-2221 if additional information is needed. The church is located at 1808 Union Grove Road, Lenoir

Foothills Radio Group welcomes Todd & Whitney in the Morning to Kicks 103.3 FM

LENOIR, NC (November 8, 2019) -- Foothills Radio Group is pleased to welcome Todd & Whitney in the Morning to Kicks 103.3 FM that began on November 11 and to announce Todd Baldwin as its operations manager.

Todd Baldwin has been a professional broadcaster for more than three decades, having started his career in radio in 1987. A native of Ellenboro, Baldwin began as a broadcaster at WBBO-AM in Forest City while still attending Chase High School. A year later he accepted an additional air shift at Forest City's WAGY-AM where he eventually joined the full-time staff.

"My first full-time broadcasting opportunity was in the evenings," Baldwin said. "After a few years I began reporting news and sports and then started hosting the morning show. By the time I left the station, I'd served four years as general manager."

During the 1990s Baldwin studied radio at Isothermal Community College and graduated from its Broadcast Technology program before serving as a reporter, anchor and videographer at Northland Cable News in Forest City where he eventually served as news director. Later his broadcast journey led him to accept a position as an anchor and reporter at Charter News in Hickory. Most recently Baldwin served as a photojournalist with Spectrum News/News 14 in Charlotte for thirteen years.

Though he enjoyed his time in cable television, it's radio that lives in Baldwin's blood. "I always loved being an announcer," he said. "What attracts me most to broadcast radio is just entertaining people and making them happy." Baldwin added, "Music can help us with problems and also lift us up when we are feeling down."

Like Kicks's 103.3's midday host Rachael, Baldwin enjoys singing karaoke. "I also enjoy fishing, just relaxing and playing with my cat named Cat, buying and selling on eBay, going to concerts and spending time with my family," he said.

Whitney Stroup was born in Valdese, the Waldensian town. Her great-grandmother's family came over on the boat from Northern Italy to help found the town. An active participant in missions since her youth, Whitney began serving on mission trips at 8 years old. It was during those trips that she fell in love with music and dance, using it to create a bridge of vulnerability and to break communication barriers within the various regions of the USA where she served.

At Gardner-Webb University Whitney won Most Talented for Miss GWU and was a finalist for the NBA Dance Your Way to Orlando, where she performed for Mia Michaels at halftime. She studied art, music, religion and philosophy in Italy before graduating from Gardner-Webb University with a Communications degree including a focus in broadcasting and public relations.

Whitney has worked for ten years in sports and entertainment learning the business side from The Carolina Opry, training in Los Angeles and working as a media and event coordinator in Charlotte. She has performed for The Smoky Mountain Opry and danced two years for the NHL Nashville Predators, performing at the NHL All-Stars both seasons and at the Stanley Cup Finals. She taught broadcasting at HHS in Nashville and interned with 102.5 The Game, ESPN Radio. She was Miss TN United States Miss Congeniality in 2017 and part of the opening of the Teen Dream Center in Nashville. In Atlanta Whitney was exposed to different sides of the industry and continued to fall deeper in love with music - working with CMT, bouncing with hydraulics on cars in "Tempo" by Lizzo and Missy Elliot, and having been seen on Dynasty and Star.

"As a co-manager for XCEL Studios, Atlanta gave me the opportunity to learn from some of the best in the business and to see how a studio and agency are run," Stroup said. "After fulfilling those dreams, I knew that I wanted to come home to my roots and have a presence where I grew up." She added, "My work and service may have given me a well-rounded - maybe even worldly - perspective, but it is the opportunity to be of service to my community that drives me." Stroup's heart for people and our community plus her passion for music and culture make her the ideal morning show co-host for Kicks 103.3.

Outside of her career, Stroup enjoys writing music, performance gigs, and spending time with her family which includes her two large rescue dogs, Lincoln James and Carter Grant.

"The launch of Todd & Whitney in the Morning represents Kicks 103.3's commitment to a live and local morning show team," said Kimberly Edmisten, general manager for Foothills Radio Group which includes Kicks 103.3 WKVS; Classic Hits 104.5/99.5/108.0 WKGX and 1340/100.5 WJRI.

Todd & Whitney in the Morning is part of the station's "It's a Brand New Moo!" line-up that launched Rachael in the Midday in August and remains anchored by the area's beloved Ride Home with Wild Bill in the Afternoon hosted by twenty-six year Kicks' veteran Wild Bill.

Todd & Whitney in the Morning debuted at 6:00 am on Monday, November 11 on WKVS Kicks 103.3 FM.

The Education Foundation announces community grant winners

LENOIR, NC (November 19, 2019) – Students are the real winners of seven Community Ed Grants awarded by the Education Foundation Inc. of Caldwell County in a ceremony held at the Education Center as teachers from across the district expressed their gratitude and thanks to the Education Foundation for selecting and funding their grant proposals.

Community Ed Grants awarded in the fall of 2019 totaling \$15,894:

The Big Read: South Caldwell High School, \$1,814.75, submitted by Carla Ingram, Brandy Allen Candice Malone, Amanda Chandler, Emily Hewitt, Steven Bailey, and Melissa Sullivan

A copy of *Allies* by Alan Gratz (centered around D-Day, June 6, 1944) for all freshmen to participate in and read together in an across-the-curriculum approach that will develop into a common language for discussion.

Flowering Knowledge: Not Just Beautiful, Educational! Hudson Middle School \$181.76, submitted by Kent Burns, Jessica Epley, Patti Palmer, and Carla Peschel

A flower dissection experience for the entire 6th grade beginning with planting the seeds, observing their growth, and using them for dissection.

Building a STEAM Foundation at West Caldwell High School: \$2,473.28, submitted by Tericia Eller and Teresa Craven.

Maker Space kits to introduce a Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM) foundation through hands-on, multi-functional experiences, so students can explore with their hands and minds.

Hold the Xylophone! Hudson Elementary School, \$2,440, submitted by Emily Buckland

The replenishment of the xylophone inventory with new, portable ones that can be easily carried and taken throughout the school or to other venues for performances.

Body Detectives: Hudson Middle School, \$1,485.16, submitted by Lynn Berry, Jennifer Crain, and Terry Dugger.

Science can stink when you're dissecting pigs, but not with the assistance of Anatomy students from CCC&TI.

Gamification of Gateway: Gateway School, \$2,500, submitted by Chad Davis

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Totally Immersed: Hibriten High School, \$5,000, submitted by Denise Allen

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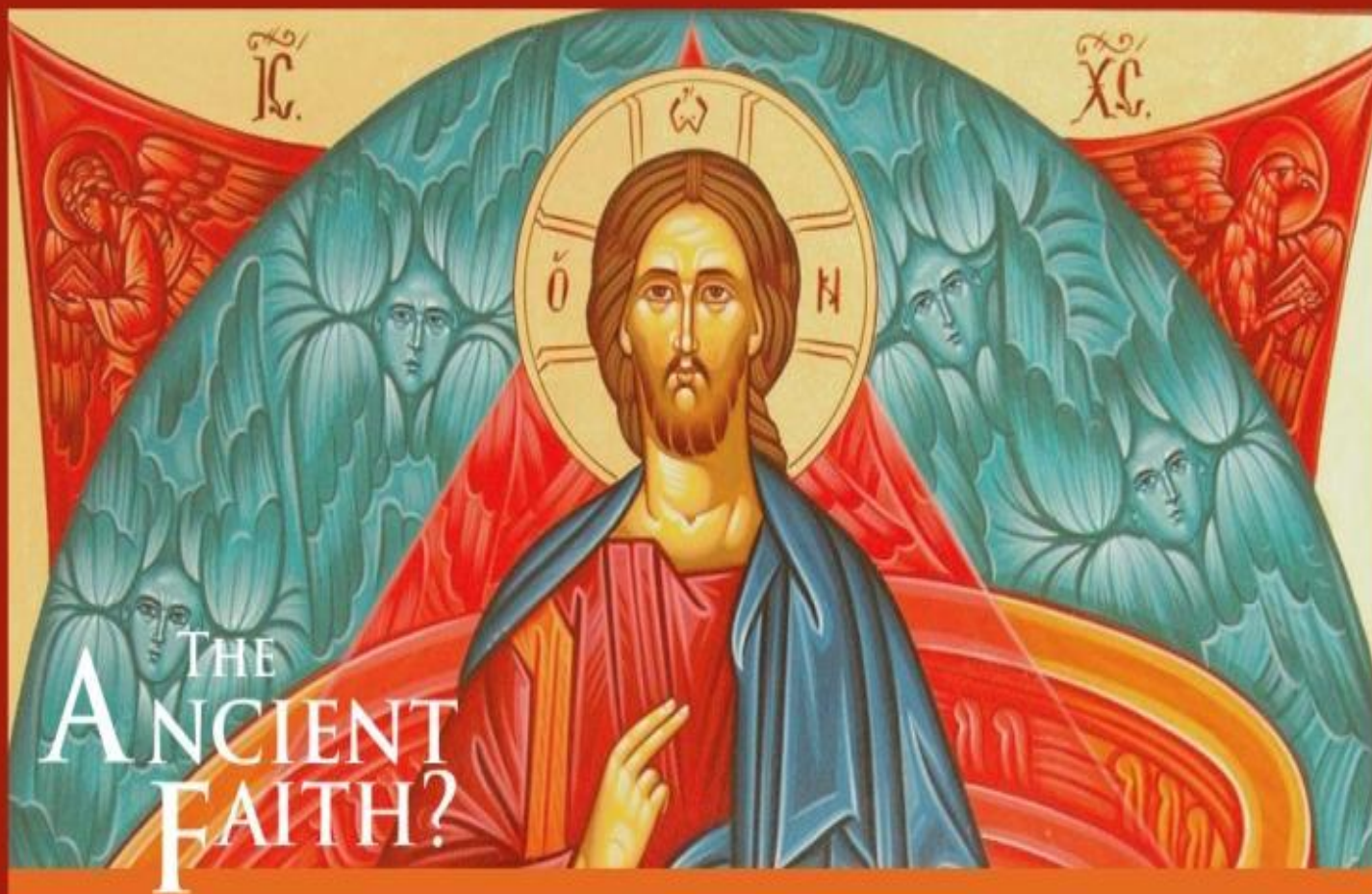
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