Bath Christian Church, Inc.

NEWSLETTER

Grateful to God

November 2026

Bath Christian Church, Inc.

PO Box 300

Bath, North Carolina 27808

TO:



Pastor's Corner — November

Holding On and Being Held

Jude 20–25

Have you ever noticed how easily a sense of responsibility can turn into a burden? We begin with the best of intentions. We want to make good decisions, fulfill our obligations, avoid unnecessary mistakes, and do what is right. And there's certainly nothing wrong with any of that. In fact, being responsible is something we ought to take seriously. But somewhere along the way, something can begin to change. What started as a sincere desire to do our best gradually becomes a feeling that we have to get everything right. We begin second-guessing decisions we've already made, worrying about things that haven't happened, and taking responsibility for outcomes we may never have had the ability to control in the first place. We start believing that if we could just anticipate every problem, make every decision correctly, and avoid every mistake, perhaps we could finally enjoy a little peace of mind. But the trouble is, there's always another decision to make, another responsibility demanding our attention, and another possibility we haven't considered. Before long, we're no longer simply trying to be responsible. We're carrying the weight of believing that everything depends on us.

And I wonder if something similar doesn't sometimes happen in our relationship with God. We genuinely want to live faithfully, grow in our understanding of Scripture, make choices that honor Christ, resist temptation, and become the people God has called us to be. Those are good and necessary desires. But sometimes, we become so concerned about our ability to remain faithful to God that we begin to lose sight of His faithfulness to us. We become preoccupied with whether we're praying enough, growing as much as we should, whether we've made the right decisions, or whether we're somehow falling short of what God expects. And while honest self-examination certainly has its place in the Christian life, there is a difference between taking your Christian life seriously and carrying the weight of it as though everything depends on you. And here's why that distinction is important: because the Christian life was never intended to rest upon our ability to sustain ourselves through sheer determination.

There's a fascinating contrast near the end of the little book of Jude that I believe speaks directly to this. Jude is one of the shortest books in the New Testament, containing only twenty-five verses, yet it includes some of the strongest warnings about spiritual deception and the importance of remaining faithful to the truth. As he approaches the end of his letter, Jude encourages believers to build themselves up in their faith, pray in the Holy Spirit, and, in verse 21, to "keep yourselves in the love of God." That's a serious instruction. Jude isn't suggesting that following Christ requires no attention, discipline, or effort. He's reminding believers to remain attentive to their relationship with God, to continue growing in the faith, and to look expectantly toward the mercy of Jesus Christ unto eternal life. But then, just a few verses later, he closes with one of the most beautiful declarations in all of Scripture: Jude 1:24 says, "Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy." Did you see the contrast there? In verse 21, Jude

tells believers to keep themselves in the love of God. But just 3 verses later, he turns their attention to the One who is able to keep them! The same letter that calls us to remain faithful ends by reminding us of the faithfulness of the One who keeps us.

Jude isn't contradicting himself. He's bringing together two truths that belong together. We have a responsibility to cultivate our relationship with God, to obey His Word, and to remain steadfast in our faith. But our confidence in the Christian life isn't ultimately grounded in our own ability to accomplish those things perfectly. We can become so concerned about the strength of our grip on God that we forget about the strength of His grip on us. Think about what Jesus said in John 10:28–29: *"And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand."* Notice where Jesus places the emphasis. He doesn't point to the strength of the sheep, but to the strength of the Shepherd. He speaks of the eternal life He gives, the security of those who belong to Him, and the power of the Father's hand. The sheep are called to hear His voice and follow Him, as Jesus says in verse 27, but their security rests upon the faithfulness and power of the One they follow. What a comforting distinction! Our faithfulness matters, but we aren't the source of our own salvation, and we aren't sufficient to sustain ourselves apart from the grace of God.

Think about the difference between holding on to something and being held by someone. When you're holding on, your attention naturally goes to the strength of your own grip. You wonder how long you can maintain it, whether you'll become tired, or what might happen if your strength begins to fail. But when you're being securely held, your confidence rests not merely in your ability to hold on, but in the strength of the One holding you. That's not a perfect illustration, of course, but I think it helps us understand something important about the Christian life. We sometimes imagine that spiritual maturity means reaching the place where we're finally strong enough, disciplined enough, or knowledgeable enough to handle whatever comes our way. Certainly, growing in faith should produce greater wisdom, obedience, and perseverance. But the longer we walk with Christ, shouldn't we also become more aware of just how dependent upon Him we have always been? Perhaps one of the greatest signs of spiritual maturity isn't becoming increasingly impressed with our own strength, but becoming increasingly confident in His.

The apostle Paul expressed something similar when he wrote to the believers at Philippi. In Philippians 1:6, he said, *"Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ."* I love the confidence in those words. Paul wasn't suggesting that the Philippians could live carelessly or abandon their responsibilities as followers of Christ. In fact, throughout the letter he encouraged them to grow in love, exercise discernment, and live in a manner worthy of the gospel. Yet his confidence concerning their future wasn't based simply upon how determined they were to remain faithful. It was grounded in the faithfulness of the God who had begun His work in them. And I think there's something here we need to remember. The God who began His work in us hasn't suddenly handed us the responsibility of completing it without Him. We are called to respond in faith and obedience, but even our growth takes place through His gracious work within us. Later, in Philippians 2:13, Paul reminds them that *"it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure."* In other words, God's work isn't merely something that happened when we first believed. He continues working in His people, shaping our desires, strengthening our obedience, and accomplishing purposes we could never fulfill through our own efforts alone.

And this is where I think we sometimes misunderstand what it means to trust God. We tend to associate trust with the difficult circumstances we face—an uncertain diagnosis, a financial concern, an unanswered prayer, or a decision about the future. We remind ourselves that God is in control and that we need to trust Him with the outcome. And we certainly should. But have we ever considered that we also need to trust God with the work He is doing in us? We can trust Him with our circumstances while quietly behaving as though our spiritual growth depends entirely upon our own ability to manage every thought, feeling, decision, and weakness. We can believe that God is powerful enough to govern the universe yet struggle to believe that He is faithful enough to continue the work He has begun in our own hearts. And perhaps that's one reason Jude's closing words are so meaningful. He reminds believers that the God who calls them to remain faithful is also the God who is able to preserve them.

But there's one more detail in Jude's closing words that I don't want us to overlook. Jude doesn't merely say that God is able to keep us from falling. He says that God is able "to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy." Think about what that means. Jude has spent much of his letter warning believers about the reality of sin, deception, and spiritual danger. He has reminded them of the seriousness of remaining faithful. Yet when he looks toward the ultimate future of those who belong to Christ, he doesn't picture them standing before God because they've finally managed to achieve perfection through their own efforts. He directs their attention to God's ability to bring them into His glorious presence. And those final words, *"with exceeding joy,"* are particularly beautiful. The Christian's ultimate hope isn't simply to struggle through life and somehow barely make it into heaven. It is to be presented before the glory of God, faultless through

His saving work, with a joy greater than anything we presently know. Jude doesn't specify whose joy is in view, but either way, the picture is one of glorious celebration rather than reluctant acceptance.

Maybe that's a truth worth carrying with us through November. We should continue to pursue a life of holiness and take our responsibilities as followers of Christ seriously. But we can do those things without living under the crushing assumption that the entire weight of our relationship with God rests upon our own shoulders. There will be days when our faith feels stronger than others, when our understanding is clearer, and when obedience seems easier. There will also be days when we recognize our weakness, struggle with uncertainty, or become painfully aware of how far we still have to grow. But the faithfulness of God isn't measured by the consistency of our feelings, and His ability to complete His work isn't diminished by our limitations. Our responsibility is real, but so is His faithfulness. And perhaps the greatest encouragement we can take from Jude is that the One who calls us to persevere is also the One who is able to preserve us.

So as we make our way through another month, perhaps we can begin to ask ourselves a different question. Rather than continually measuring the strength of our grip on God, perhaps we need to spend more time remembering the strength of His grip on us. Not as an excuse for carelessness, but as a reason for confidence. Not because our obedience is unimportant, but because His grace is indispensable. We are called to keep ourselves in the love of God, but we do so knowing that our ultimate hope rests in the God who is able to keep us.

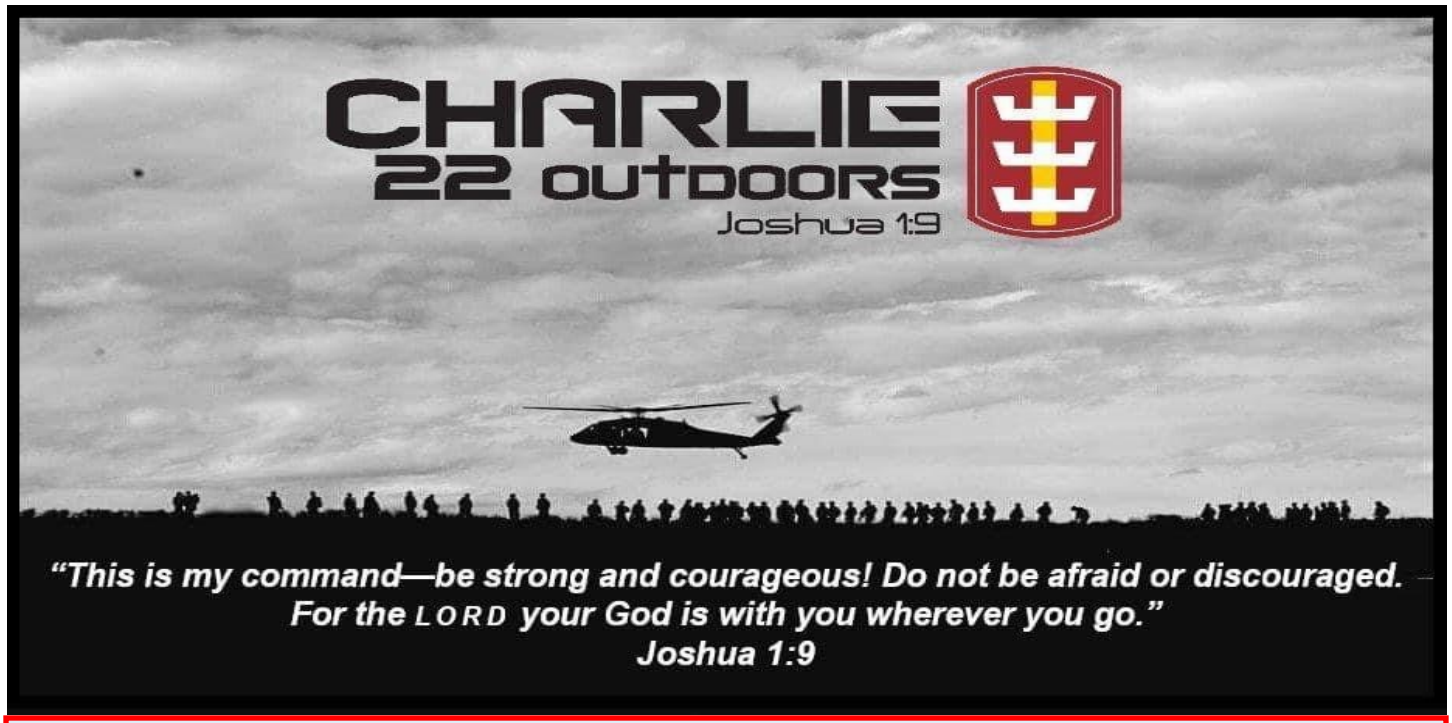
And that's why I love the way Jude closes his letter. After every warning, every instruction, and every encouragement to remain faithful, he turns our attention away from ourselves and toward the One who is worthy of all glory, majesty, dominion, and power.

He doesn't end by telling us how strong we need to become. He ends by reminding us how able God already is.

Grace and Peace to you,

Pastor Harry & Jennifer

Your Notes & Thoughts about Jude 1:20-25



Over the years, members of the military have served our country. That means they have served us. Many of them have willingly laid down their lives to protect and defend, in wartime and peace, the Constitution of the United States of America and its freedoms. We can attend a church of our choosing. We can own a Bible. We have the freedom of speech. The freedom of assembly. The freedom of the press. We have the Second Amendment. We have these freedoms, rights, and more, all defended and protected by the members of the military.

November 11 is Veterans Day. We celebrate and honor all who have served. Today let's take time to pause, reflect, and pray for our veterans and their families. Let's thank God for all of them. Let's ask God to put his cloak around them and protect them.

Recently I was blessed and humbled to get to speak to the congregation at our church. I emphasized three points that I want to share with you. First, because of Jesus, our hearts are made clean. His sacrifice did that for us. Second, thank you is not enough. Saying thank you is awesome. Don't get me wrong. But we need to do more than that. Third, our responsibilities have increased. We are called to serve. The Bible tells us that. And I believe that the sacrifice on the cross for us, makes it a requirement for us to serve. *So today, find a way to serve. Look for them. God will show you. And then when you find it, do it*. Let me close with this on this most very important day: *If you are a veteran, know that we love you. We thank you. We honor you and value you. Today we want you to know how much we appreciate you. And we are here for you. We love you. And God loves you.*

Taken from Daily Devotions, Charlie22 Ourtdoors

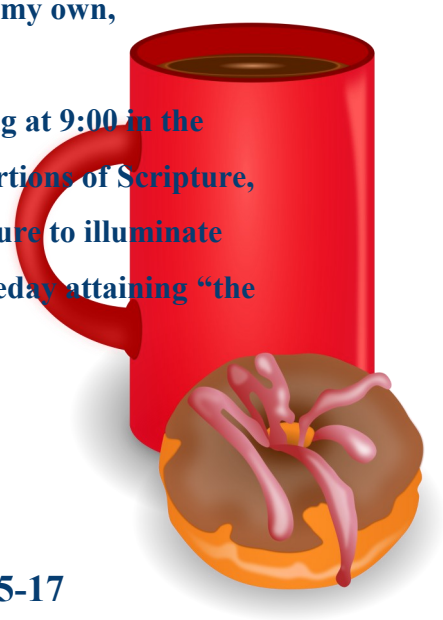
Join us for Sunday School at BCC

Sunday School Message for November

The Apostle Paul states in Philippians 3:14, "I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." In essence, the Christian life is a race requiring sustained, maximum effort toward the "prize" of Christlikeness. The "upward call" refers to God's divine summons to conform to the image of Christ. This is not about instant perfection but about a lifelong pursuit.

We must start our pursuit the same way Paul did – with the awareness that we have a lot of learning and growing to do. There is a danger of feeling satisfied with our present spiritual condition, with feeling that we have had enough prayer, enough church, enough teaching of God's Word, enough of the Bible, and enough of Christian fellowship. To pursue the prize of Christlikeness, one must first recognize that we are not what we might ought to be. So we must Philippians 3:12b, "press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own."

Everyone is invited to join us for Sunday School every Sunday morning at 9:00 in the Fellowship Hall where we get together to worship God by studying portions of Scripture, God's infallible Word. Each week, we "press on" by examining Scripture to illuminate the majestic truth presented in the Word of God, with the goal of someday attaining "the prize".



Topics for November:

November 1, The Prophet is Called; 1 Samuel 3:8-20.

November 8, The Ark is Lost; 1 Samuel 4:12-22

November 15, Israel Recommits to God; 1 Samuel 7:3-11; 15-17

November 22, David is Anointed King; 1 Samuel 16:4-13

November 29, The City of David; 2 Samuel 5:1-12

Bath Christian Church

Annual Fall Bazaar & Yard Sale



Saturday, November 21, 2026

6:30 AM – Breakfast Biscuits

7:00–11:00 AM – Yard Sale

7:00 AM – Bazaar Items:

Canned Goods, Baked Goods, Soup & Sandwiches, Crafts, Christmas Items, Knives, Raffle Drawing



Everyone is welcome — bring a friend!

Bazaar Bulletin Board

-Pimento Cheese & Chicken Salad needed for Bazaar lunch

Schedule: November 21

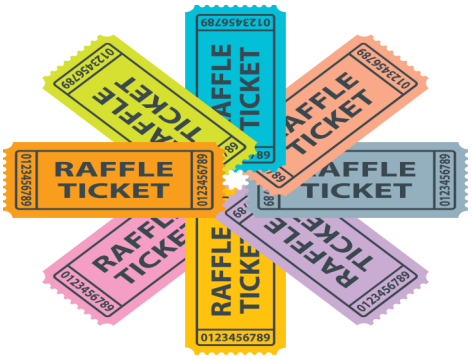
6:30 AM Breakfast Biscuits Moe Shack
7-11:00 AM Yard Sale Old BHS gym
7:00 AM Bazaar Items Fellowship Hall Area
Canned Goods, Soup & Sandwiches,
Baked Goods, Crafts, Christmas Items, Knives,
Raffle Drawing

Donated Items for Yard Sale Appreciated

No heavy furniture, Appliances, clothes, televisions, exercise equipment or computers

Schedule for the setup/drop off

Monday Nov 16 9-12 Noon and 5-7 PM
Tuesday Nov 17 9-12 Noon and 5-7 PM
Wednesday Nov 18 9-12 Noon and 5-7 PM



Bazaar Raffle Tickets $1.00

Some Amazing Prizes have been donated!

Get you ticket to win one of these great prizes……Contact Linda Heath 252 544-2085 or Alice Wingate 252 945-5965

Lap Quilt, Quilt, Sewing Machine, Painting, Hand Carved Walking Stick, 3 Lovely Handcrafted Pens, $100 Ribeye's Gift Card, $100 CASH, $50 Food Lion Gift Card, $100 Food Lion Gift Card, $100 Blackbeard's Gift Card.

Collection Dates

November 16th-22nd

The Shoeboxes are here!

They are located on the table in the Mail Room, Vestibules & Fellowship Hall!

Don't want to pack your own box?
You may purchase items for the Shoeboxes and place them in a large box in the room by the Pastor's office and someone will pack the box for you! Items due Nov. 8

Want to Donate money for the purchase of Shoebox items? We can do the shopping and packing for you!
Just place a check or cash (in an envelope) in the collection plate! *Please mark your donation for "Samaritan's Purse".* Donations are due Nov. 8.

All Shoeboxes that are boxed by you and ready for donation are due November 16-22



Christian Men's Fellowship

CMF met October 7, 2026,

In attendance were: Gerald Heath, Roger Winstead, Harry Smith, Larry Schmitt, Gerald Morris, Starley Stell, Billy Hill, Fred Hill, Claude Dupree, Leon Wingate, Mike Alligood & Phil McRoy.

The blessing was given by Phil McRoy. A delicious meal was enjoyed by all. The minutes were read and approved by Billy Hill. Leon Wingate gave the devotion. Several people in the community in need of prayer were mentioned.

Gerald Heath dismissed the meeting with prayer.

Submitted by Mike Alligood

"I awoke this morning with devout thanksgiving for my friends, the old and the new."

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Women's Ministry

Christian Womn's Fellowship

No Meetings in November & December

Christian Men's Fellowship

Next Meeting Nov. 4, 6:00 PM

MEN'S MINISTRY

Family Night

No Dinners in November & December





November 2, 12 Noon!

No December Bingo



No Movies in November & December



Every Thursday

8:00 AM

CWF Meeting October, 2026

Bath Christian Church CWF met October 28 with 17 ladies present: Sarah Stone, Alice Wingate, Cynthia Stell, Gale Walton, Patty Selby, Mary Lynn Edwards, Yvonne Waters, Rachel Jordan, Barbara Morris, Polly Gurganus, Sandra Dupree, Margie Tankard, Debbie Smith, Diane Warren, Nancy Robertson, Marcia Norman, and Nancy Hill.

VP Sarah Stone welcomed everyone. Barbara opened with prayer. Patty shared a devotion titled "Becoming the Proverbs 31 Woman." She read from the chapter and noted how much she respected and was thankful for the women in the room tonight who have guided and encouraged her through her years at Bath Christian Church. The women of our church reflect the attributes of the Proverbs 31 woman in many aspects of their lives. We should all strive to be a Proverbs 31 woman in all we say and do. To do that we must rely on our God with confidence. Her heartfelt thoughts were appreciated by all.

Minutes of the September meeting were read and approved. Gale gave the treasurer's report.

Business:

1. Bazaar: Sarah reminded everyone to make sure they have read Claudia's handout of job needs and know where and what time to be at their work stations on bazaar day. Rachel noted that several teenagers will be helping at the gym each night during bazaar week. Alice has more raffle tickets if anyone needs. More pimento cheese and chicken salad is needed for lunch and takeout. Flyers and small cards to advertise the bazaar are available for distribution. Marcia brought small clear takeout containers for those baking cookies, candies, etc. if they would like to use them.

2. Christmas meeting: Margie will host at her home on December 16 at 6 o'clock. Everyone bring a finger food/snack and gift for exchanging.

3. Shut-ins Christmas bags: December 8 at 9:30 was the time agreed upon to meet in the fellowship hall to assemble bags and make deliveries.

4. Cantata social: Alice noted that help for food preparation for this annual event has dwindled and asked if we should continue. Nancy H shared that it is a wonderful community outreach for our church; so many enjoy this night of fellowship. She also noted that many choir members have offered to prepare food as well. It was decided to continue with the social and everyone is encouraged to help.

Meeting closed with the CWF benediction.

Nancy Hill, reporter



Board Meeting September 6, 2026

Starley Stell called the meeting to order, and Howard Robertson gave the opening prayer.

The minutes were approved (motion by Jane Alligood; second by Beau Norman).

Jerry Walton presented the financial report and corrected the amounts listed for the Sentennial Security Life investment. The report was approved (motion by Jane Alligood; second by Leon Wingate).

Old Business

501(c)(3): Keith Kidwell is willing to resubmit the form to the IRS if requested. Since churches are not required to have 501(c)(3) status, the Board will not pursue further paperwork.

AED: Starley Stell briefly reviewed the AED training.

Flocks: The Board will revisit this topic later.

Fifth Sunday Music: The Mac McRoy group presented an excellent musical program and spoken testimony. It was well received, and attendance was good.

Revival: Howard Robertson contacted revival speaker David Sawyer. The theme for his message series will be "Breaking the Chains That Bind Us." He will select a closing hymn to accompany the theme. Revival services will begin at 7:00 p.m.

Ramp: Billy Hill reported on the ramp built for the husband of one of the church's new families.

New Business

Nominating Committee: The Board approved the list of nominees for the coming church year. The list will be shared with the congregation two weeks before the Congregational Meeting, scheduled for the second week of October.

Trees: Neighbors requested permission to cut down trees along the church property line near the columbarium so they can erect a fence. The request was approved (motion by Claudia Alligood; second by Billy Hill).

Minister's Remarks: The minister shared a few comments about the youth and asked about providing communion to shut-ins. Members discussed the need, and Leon will begin next Sunday.

Painting: The CWF suggested painting the church building's exterior doors and facings, preferably before Revival and Homecoming. The Board requested a cost estimate and will hold a called meeting when that information is available. Respectfully submitted,

Claudia Alligood

Please Pray for Our Church

Church Family Prayer Concerns:

Mike Alligood, Jamie Barnhill, Ann Bertram, Chase Brooks (heart procedure, date TBD), Dana Brooks, Becky Tuten, Eunice Robbins, Jon Sadler, Larry Schmitt, June Wallace, Roger Winstead & unspoken requests.

Friends & Family Prayer Concerns

Dianne Ashby 6/14
Bonnie Boyd 9/27
Kay Capps 10/25
Lisa Clarke (Trevor Crawford's Daughter)
Kenya Clemonts 10/25
Betty Cochran 10/11
Glenda Douglas
Lenora Gibbs 10/11
Mike Godley 6/21
Brandy Gurganus 10/11
Vivian Hill 10/25
Ruth Jones 9/27
Kevin Jordan 6/21
Joel Larcombe 9/27
Linda Minnick 6/24
Donnie McLawhorn 9/6
Brandi Robbins 7/1
Shiley Rickardson 10/4
Selena Rouse 10/25
Leigh Shanks-6/24
Dawn Singleton 10/11
Gwen & Harry Slade
Mike Slade
Mike & Linda Swanner 10/13
Paige Stafford-3/29
Brantley Tillman 10/11
David Woolard 11/1
US Military & Government & Unspoken Requests

The Families of: *Roy Armstrong, Joseph Berlando, Betty Lou Boyd, Gary Carr, Alma Credle, Lloyd Jordan, Jr., Bill Overton, Elsie Thorp, James Williams, Steven Wilson, Sr., Wayman & Freeman Families*

College: Alex Woolard, 2500 University Hts., UNCA Box 7729, Asheville, NC 28804

Military:
Chase Brooks, Jeff Calzaretta, Will Cutler, John Cornelius, Hunter Williams

28 Arrowood Dr. Groton, CT 06340, Ryan Cornelius

In Nursing Homes: John Everett, Bobbie Jean Hobgood, Clarence Cook, Lenora Gibbs ****Please note new additions and address change in Nursing Homes**

Ridgewood Nursing Home
1624 Highland Dr.
Washington, NC 27889
-Glenda Boyd Room 103 Sandra Dupree Sister-in-law
-Nelda Ormond Room 206
River Trace Nursing & Rehabilitation
Josie Pippin Room 309 *
Carolyn Fisher *Carolyn has moved back to Brookdale**
Brookdale Senior Living Center
2715 Dickinson Ave.
Greenville, NC 27834
Sunrise of Cary, Carol Richardson ,1206 W. Chatham Street, Room 105, Cary NC 27513

Jade Harris The Pines Rest Home *New

Automated External Defibrillators available in the Sanctuary and the Fellowship Hall