

The Christian life is a journey.

*TrailNotes* speaks to forward movement, paying attention to the “landscape” we are passing through in this trail-laced wooded hillside and valley, not to mention the world beyond. *TrailNotes* is an unfolding, ongoing journal of the people who share the trail with us and the things we’re learning and doing.

## ElderTalk

*Ed’s Note: Jadaé Fox has written for ElderTalk before, but this is his first as an Elder. Our other Elders will be writing in the next months. Congratulations to Jadaé Fox, Andy Heininger, Robert Key and Jon Vega who join Rick Widener and Pastor Eric Byrom as Elders.*

*“Serve the LORD with fear and rejoice with trembling.”*  
-PSALM 2:11

When you think of loving fear, what comes to mind? Maybe a scary or suspenseful movie, riding a roller-coaster, skydiving, or being a dare-devil. This view of fear is for entertainment. If fearing the Lord meant living in constant terror of God and what He might do to you, then where would the love of fear be?

Recently the doctor put me on a strong medication, the kind that you would be better off not reading the warnings (if you know what I mean). I anguished over the possible side effects for a day or two. Then praying with a friend, the Lord reminded me that “He (God) holds the keys.” God could have called me home many times before. God was reminding me that if I fear Him, I have nothing else to fear.

My son asked me once, “Dad, can we be buds? Can I call you, ‘Bud?’” Gently, I responded to him,

“No, son, you get to call me something so much more than that. You get to call me ‘Dad!’ If you called me ‘Bud,’ you might forget that I am ‘Dad’ and that I am in charge.” “Bud” would have changed the nature of our relationship. We get to call our Heavenly Father “Abba” which means “Daddy.” How awesome is that? Fear of God helps us not to forget our place.

*“Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire.”* -HEBREWS 12:28-29

When we read a verse in the Bible that talks about fearing God, there can be a tendency to see it in one of two lenses. We might see fear as being terrified or we might see fear as meaning reverence and deep respect. Actually, fear of the Lord is a combination of the two.

“God is a consuming fire” so even for the believer, he or she never wants to forget that God is God. He is the

## I love to fear the Lord

JADAÉ FOX

### What does it mean to



### God?

Creator of the universe, the One who holds all things together. He is the One who decides to whom and where we are born. God decides the number of days we will live and whether we will be in heaven or hell. God is holy and hates sin, (but loves the sinner) and He brings holiness to completion (for the believer) in the fear of the Lord. (HEBREWS 1:3, JOB 14:5, ACTS 17:26, LUKE 12:5, 2 COR. 7:1)

*“Don’t be afraid,” Moses answered them, “for God has come in this way to test you, and so that your fear of Him will keep you from sinning!”*

-EXODUS 20:20



In this verse the people of God are at the foot of the mountain and hear God in the form of thunder and the loud blast of the ram’s horn. They see lightning and smoke. They stand at a distance, terrified that God would destroy them. God is showing them that they (we) should know who He is and what He can do. Moses said, “Don’t be afraid.” When we respond to God with humble obedience, we have no need to be afraid of Him.

The Bible speaks of many blessings and rewards that come from fearing the Lord. It prolongs life, brings our salvation, fulfills the desires of our heart, grants favor, mercy, His loving kindness, gives us strong confidence in Him. These and so much more are promised for those who fear Him openly. If our pursuit is the reward, then it is not the fear that God calls the believer to at all.

*“The remarkable thing about God is that when you fear God, you fear nothing else; whereas if you do not fear God, you fear everything else.”*

-OSWALD CHAMBERS

## MARCH 2018

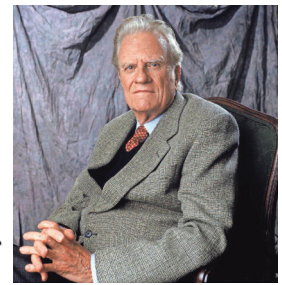
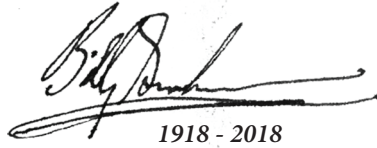
- 3** Men's Prayer Breakfast in the Upper Room. 8 am Bring your own breakfast. Coffee provided.
- 3** Women of Grace will meet in the Tim Barber Youth Bldg. for sharing and prayer. 10 am to 12:30 pm. Light refreshments. Bring a friend!
- 4** Pastor Eric Byrom preaching on Ps.1. New S.S. configuration. PreK-K in Flower Room (#2), Grades 1-2 in Striped Room (#1). Grades 3-5 in Girafe Room (#3).
- 4** First Palm Sunday/Easter Choir Rehearsal after Circle Church. 12:30-1:30 pm in the Tim Barber Youth Building. All invited! Bring black 3 ring notebook for your music.
- 10** Set clocks ahead for DST!
- 11** Pastor Eric Byrom preaching on Ps. 2. 
- 11** Choir Rehearsal 12:30-1:30 pm. – Youth Building.
- 16-17** Teen Retreat with Child Evangelism.
- 17** Celebrate St. Patrick's Day! See Debbie McKee.
- 18** Pastor Eric preaching on Ps. 130. Benevolence offering.
- 18** Choir Rehearsal 12:30-1:30 pm. – Youth Building.
- 21-30** Training for teachers going to Japan. Nathan Tucker, coordinator. Planning a Meet & Greet.
- 25 Palm Sunday.** Elder Jadaé Fox preaching on Ps. 118. 
- 25** Choir Rehearsal 12:30-1:30 pm. – Youth Building.
- 30 Good Friday**
- April 1 - Easter Sunday** - Pastor Eric Byrom preaching on Ps. 118:10-24.



Jon Vega, Jadaé Fox, Robert Key and Andy Heinger (with their wives), are prayed for as they are installed as Elders of Grace Fellowship Church on 2/11.



## Billy Graham:



**with the Lord!**



“A simple casket for a simple man with a profoundly simple message of God’s love. That’s what visitors will see when they pay respects to Billy Graham, the North Carolina-born evangelist who traveled the globe during his lifetime sharing the Gospel with some 215 million people.” His pine casket was carried by his grandsons.

The casket was made in 2006 by inmates of the Louisiana State Penitentiary in Angola, LA. It is lined with a mattress pad and has a simple wooden cross on top. It cost around \$200 to make.

On Wednesday and Thursday this week he will lie in state at the U.S. Capitol Rotunda before returning to NC for the funeral which will be live-streamed and on FOX News TV beginning at 10 am. on Friday, March 2.



Billy Graham will be buried next to his wife, Ruth, in the Prayer Garden on the grounds of the Billy Graham Library in Charlotte, NC. To God be the glory!  
(information from the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association)

Now Jerry and Laura King have two granddaughters!

**Miriam Lorraine Malachowsky** daughter of Joanna and Brian Malachowsky was born on Feb. 5, 2018. She weighed 7 lbs. 1.3 oz and was 19 inches long. Her big brother, Miah, is looking forward to playing with Mimi.



Manfred & Janet Adalem have a granddaughter!

**Hannah Grace Hoptry** was born to Rachel (Adalem) and Aaron Hoptry on February 22, 2018 weighing 6 lb. 15 oz. and measuring 19 inches.



Congratulations all!

**Dan Gates on Sabbatical**

On Sunday, Feb. 25 Jadaé Fox announced that Dan Gates would be taking a rest from worship leading. He has served for 25 years! He will continue to play on the worship team. Thank you, Dan!



*Dan receiving prayers of blessing.*

McKee Circle Church hosts meal for those in need

Every evening Vivian Winters coordinates with many volunteer groups which provide a daily meal (serving at 11 am) in downtown Mansfield to feed those who are hungry. Recently, the McKee Circle decided to help her by taking a meal to the Square. Because of the rain that day, they took shelter in the Gazebo. They fed about 30, although they were prepared for 60. Susan Judd brought her hand-knit winter hats also.

The meal consisted of chili and chopped onions, cornbread muffins, a variety of fruit, homemade cookies from the Lucas Bakery, and bottled water. The photos below tell it all!



If anyone would be interested for their group to prepare a meal, call or text Vivian Winters at 419-564-7299.

# Words from Rachel Scott's father to members of Congress after she was killed in the Columbine shooting

DARRELL SCOTT

“Since the dawn of creation there have been both good and evil in the hearts of men and women. We all contain seeds of kindness or the seeds of violence. The death of my wonderful daughter, Rachel Joy Scott, and the deaths of that heroic teacher, and the other eleven children who died must not be in vain. Their blood cries out for answers.

“The first recorded act of violence was when Cain killed Abel out in the field. The villain was not the club he used. Neither was it the NCA, the National Club Association. The true killer was Cain, and the reason for the murder could only be found in Cain's heart.

“In the days that followed the Columbine tragedy, I was amazed at how quickly fingers began to be pointed at groups such as the NRA. I am not a member of the NRA. I am not a hunter. I do not even own a gun. I am not here to represent or defend the NRA because I do not believe that they are responsible for my daughter's death. Therefore I do not believe that they need to be defended. If I believed they had anything to do with Rachel's murder, I would be their strongest opponent.

“I am here today to declare that Columbine was not just a tragedy—it was a spiritual event that should be forcing us to look at where the real blame lies! Much of the blame lies here in this room. Much of the blame lies in the pointing fingers of the accusers themselves. I wrote a poem just four nights ago that expresses my feelings best. This was written way before I knew I would be speaking here today.

“Our laws ignore our deepest needs,  
Your words are empty air.  
You've stripped away our heritage,  
You've outlawed simple prayer.  
Now gunshots fill our classrooms,  
And precious children die.  
You seek for answers everywhere,  
And ask the question 'why?'..

“Men and women are three-part beings. We all consist of body, mind and spirit. When we refuse to acknowledge a third part of our make-up, we create a void that allows evil, prejudice and hatred to rush in and wreak havoc. Spiritual presences were present within our educational systems for most of our nation's history. Many of our major colleges began as theological seminaries. This is a historical fact.

“What has happened to us as a nation? We have refused to honor God, and in so doing, we open the doors

to hatred and violence. When something as terrible as Columbine's tragedy occurs—politicians immediately look for a scapegoat such as the NRA. They immediately seek to pass more restrictive laws that contribute to erode away our personal and private liberties. We do not need more restrictive laws.

“Eric and Dylan would not have been stopped by metal detectors. No amount of gun laws can stop someone who spends months planning this type of massacre. The real villain lies within our own hearts.

“As my son Craig lay under that table in the school library and saw his two friends murdered before his very eyes, he did not hesitate to pray in school. I defy any law or politician to deny him that right! I challenge every young person in America, and around the world, to realize that on April 20, 1999, at Columbine High School, prayer was brought back to our schools. Do not let the many prayers offered by those students be in vain. Dare to move into the new millennium with a sacred disregard for legislation that violates your God-given right to communicate with Him.

“To those of you who would point your finger at the NRA—I give to you a sincere challenge. Dare to examine your own heart before casting the first stone! My daughter's death will not be in vain! The young people of this country will not allow that to happen!”



## Grace Fellowship Church

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Eric Byrom	Presiding Elder/Pastor
Jadaé Fox	Elder
Andy Heining	Elder
Robert Key	Elder
Jon Vega	Elder
Rick Widener	Elder
Rick Widener	Treasurer
Kay Berry & Karen Gates	Women's Ministry
Lori Barker	Missions
Andy Heining	Worship
Circle Church Serve Group	Greeters
Angel Vega	Dance Ministry
Judy Nichols	Prayer Chain
Kay Berry & Jadaé Fox	Office
Kathy Barth, Manfred & Janet Adalem	Communion
Andy Anschutz	Sound
John Paul DeWalt	Power Point
John and Donna Kurtz	TrailNotes