

Faith

News from
Cleveland County
churches

SEND US YOUR STUFF!

Faith welcomes your church news.

HERE'S WHAT TO DO:

Mail
Lifestyles
P.O. Box 48
Shelby, NC 28151

Email
starlifestyles@shelbystar.com

Fax
(704)484-0805

Drop off
315 E. Graham St.
Shelby

■ GOSPEL MUSIC

Using their voices to help others

His Glory Quartet will be singing for a benefit concert being held at 6:30 Wednesday, Sulphur Springs United Methodist Church, 1642 Sulphur Springs Church Road, Shelby. In addition to the singing, a dinner will be served beginning at 5:30 p.m. All monetary or gift card donations received will go directly to Mrs. Rhonda Humphries and her four children, who lost almost everything they owned in a house fire in January. Further compounding these recent painful circumstances was the tragic death of her husband, the children's dad, in October, 2011.



JACK
KIMBRO

If you cannot go to the concert or dinner and would like to contribute, make your check to: Rhonda Humphries Family Fund. Mail it to:

First Piedmont Federal Bank, P.O. Box 1900, Gaffney, S.C. 29343, Attention: Steve Bratton.

Everyone is invited to this worthy Christian event. Go, eat, enjoy some good singing and help these folks in need. Thanks. Call 704-538-7097 for complete details.

BENEFIT FOR CAM

St. Marks Episcopal, All Saints Episcopal, St. Stephens A.M.E. Zion, St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal and Holy Trinity Lutheran Churches are sponsoring a "Gospel Hymn Sing" benefit concert at 2 p.m. Sunday at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 805 S. York St., Gastonia. All proceeds from a freewill love offering will go to support Crisis Assistance Ministry. What a great work they do throughout our area.

Featured on the program will be the choirs from each church as well as lots of congregational singing. The public is invited to the concert and an ice cream social afterwards. Call 704-824-1888 if necessary.

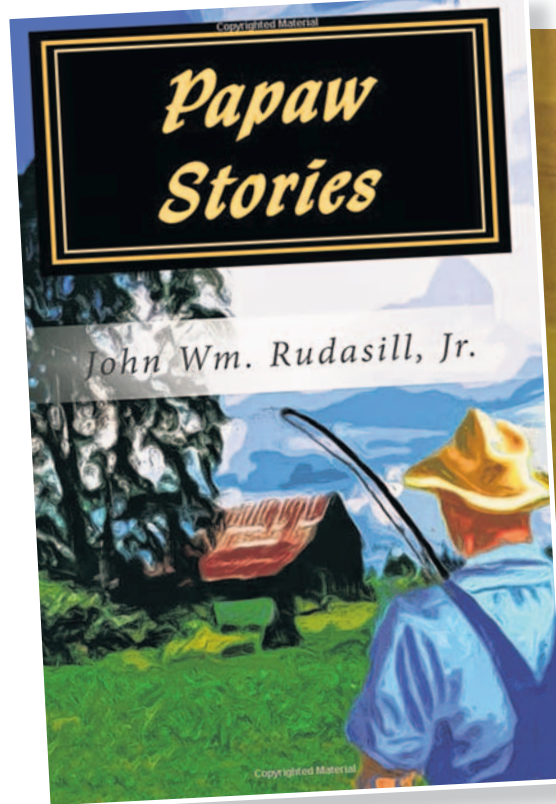
GOSPEL MUSIC EVENTS

- **Michael Combs** sings 6 p.m. Saturday, Independence Hill Baptist, Huntersville.
- **The Griggs** sing 6 p.m. Saturday and The Fletchers sing 6 p.m. Tuesday, Country Kitchen, 116 E. Main St., Dallas. Call 705-922-9597.
- **Truly Blessed** sings 6 p.m. Saturday, Holy Ground Community Church, Forest City. They sing 7 p.m. Thursday, C.J.'s BBQ, Cleveland. Call 803-230-0525.
- **The Rick Webb Family** sings 6 p.m. Sunday, Temple Baptist, 701 Littlejohn St., Gastonia. Call 704-678-1683.
- **St. James Male Chorus** sings 6 p.m. Sunday, Benton Heights Presbyterian, Hwy 601, Monroe. Call 704-545-5310.
- **Golden Valley Crusaders** sing 6 p.m. Sunday, Zion Road Baptist, Morganton. Call 828-245-8427.
- **The Kingdom Heirs and In His Glory** sing 7 p.m. Thursday, R.S. Central High, Hwy 221 N, Rutherfordton. A spaghetti supper, available for a \$7 donation, begins at 5:30 p.m. Call 828-287-3356.
- **Ann & Eddie Allen** sing 5:45 p.m. Feb. 17, Thomburg Auction, NC 216, Kings Mountain. Call 704-629-5700.
- **His Mercies** sings 6 p.m. Feb. 17, Granny's Kitchen, I-40 W, Icard. Call 828-397-3588.
- **The Kingdom Heirs, Heritage Quartet and King's Cause** sing 7 p.m. February 17, Second Baptist, Lancaster, S.C. Call 803-283-9988 for tickets or information.

Consider this:

Thinking a moment before speaking out is better than an hour when speaking out without thinking!

Send gospel music news to Jack Kimbro, 644 Archie Whitesides Road, Gastonia, NC, 28052 or call 704-864-9185. Information must be received by noon Monday.



The Good Humor Guy

Author says laughter good for the soul

Jackie Bridges
jbridges@shelbystar.com

From the time he was in college, John William Rudasill Jr. of Lawndale has entertained people with his humorous stories and characters.

Known as the "Good Humor Guy," Rudasill's brand of comedy is pure, clean fun. He performs his stand up routine for church groups and others. His day job, though, is serving as president of Phoenix Corporate Services Inc., a Cherryville company specializing in a variety of computer and business services.

Recently he wrote a book called "Papaw Stories," featuring the dry wit of his grandfather, Carmie Russell Rudasill. The book is dedicated to the memory of all his grandparents: Carmie's wife, Mildred Bailey Rudasill, "Mamaw"; and his maternal grandparents, Curtis Hubert Hamrick, "Granddaddy," and Annie Mae Gold Hamrick, "Granny."

"All of which were the best grandparents for which anyone could have ever asked and all of which contributed to my acquired sense of humor and my love for a good story," Rudasill wrote on the dedication page.

As part of his comedy routine, Rudasill assures church audiences that it's OK to laugh.

"One of my favorite verses in the Bible is John 10:10 and I always use it when concluding one of my speaking engagements," he said. "That verse says that the Lord came that we might have life and life more abundantly. I believe that part of that abundant life is laughing and enjoying ourselves on this side of heaven so we will know how to behave when we get to the other side. The Bible says that we are made in God's image. That being said, God must have a sense of humor since we have a sense of humor."

Rudasill said he believes the ability to laugh and enjoy life is a gift from God.

"If you don't think God has a sense of humor, just look at some of those people around you. I say that to get a laugh," he said. "If you laughed and I brought you just a little bit of joy, then what I did was important and that laughter was important, because it showed that you were made in the image of God. Every time I get somebody to



Left, Rudasill's grandparents napping in the 'blockhouse,' so named because the building was built, with the exception of the roof, entirely out of 16-inch cinder blocks, said Rudasill. The family used this building for Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners and it housed his grandmother's wringer washer and other antique treasures collected over the years. These various pieces of farming tools adorned the rafters of the building.

► About John W. Rudasill Jr.

Native of Cleveland County and the son of Mary and Bill Rudasill Graduate of Burns High School, Isothermal Community College and the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, where he received an Engineering Degree in Computer Electronics

President of Phoenix Corporate Services Inc. in Cherryville and former president of Carrier Computer Services Inc., the information technology subsidiary for Carolina Freight Corp.

Married to Vickie Costner Rudasill; they have three children: Aimee, Kristi and Billy, and make their home in Lawndale; grandparents of Carter and Lillee Moore, the children Aimee, and her husband, Chris Moore; they also have two granddogs, a beagle named Pepper that belongs to his daughter Kristi and her husband, Court Greene; and Luke, a mixed breed Lab, that belongs to his son, Billy

A member of Union Baptist Church, where he is a choir member, Sunday school teacher, building fund committee chairman and chairman of the board of deacons.

laugh, it's an opportunity to see that person as the image of the Creator."

His Papaw had one of the driest senses of humor of anyone he's ever known, Rudasill said.

"He could say things that were inherently funny and you wouldn't realize it until it came back around and smacked you in the back of the head like Gibbs does those guys on NCIS," he said. "I guess I've always tried to apply his subtle dry wit to some of what I do when it comes to humor."

And the humor definitely comes through in the book, said Edith Shumate, wife of the Rev. Michael Shumate, pastor of Rudasill's church, Union Baptist in Polkville.

"The book is easy to read and most enjoyable," Shumate said, "a book you simply cannot put down. The joy and memories passed down through the family reflect a closeness and dedication that should be cherished. For a break in a day or in a week full of many details, pick up this book and enjoy the laugh. Your mood and spirit will be lifted."

The stories in the book feature his grandfather's innovative ways of dealing with problems caused by the neighborhood dog,

the family pony and his wife's cat. There are also fishing stories and tales about snow and dairy cows. Woven throughout are glimpses into the faith of his grandparents.

"My grandmother led my grandfather to the Lord ... I always remember them going to church together every Sunday," Rudasill said. "My grandmother was the more docile and loving sort of the two, so much so that she got bit by a spider one time trying to pick it up out of the sink to throw it outside so she wouldn't have to kill it. My grandfather, although cantankerous at times, lived his faith in action. I honestly believe he would have taken the shirt off his back and given it to someone in true need, even though his gruff exterior would never have hinted at this gentle internal side."

Reach Jackie Bridges at 704-669-3337.

Online:

Order copies of his book, "Papaw Stories," and hear clips of John W. Rudasill's performances as well as his original songs at www.goodhumorguy.com. The book is also available on Amazon.

■ FAITH MATTERS

A more precious gift of love – Life

February has always been considered as the month of love, and also known for Valentine's Day. "Love is in the air," wouldn't one say? It is so ironic how one will celebrate holidays and festivals and will not search its' origin. I must confess, I have done it as well. Nevertheless, everything has a beginning and a purpose and should be considered before anyone starts celebrating. Ecclesiastes 3:1 reads, "To everything there is a season, and a time for every matter or purpose under heaven." Even though, celebrating this love month feels great, this year I took in consideration to find out why we observe Valentine's Day.

According to Wikipedia, Saint Valentine's Day, shortened to Valentine's Day, is once a year commemoration held on Feb. 14 celebrating love and affection between intimate companions. In fact, Rome during the fifth century, celebrated a similar holiday called the Lupercian Festival, which was



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celebrated during the middle of February. This festival was an ode to the god of fertility and a celebration of sensual pleasure. In 496 A.D., Christianity had taken over Rome and Pope Gelasius outlawed the pagan Lupercian Festival. He replaced it with something more appropriate and set aside a day in February to honor the martyr, St. Valentine.

As the story goes, Bishop Valentine was beheaded for helping young lovers marry against the wishes of the mad Emperor Claudius. While Bishop Valentine

was awaiting his execution, he fell in love with his jailer's daughter. When it came time for him to be executed, the bishop wrote his love a final note and signed it, "From your Valentine." This phrase has stuck and become very popular

on many of today's Valentine cards. Although historians can't agree on how Valentine's Day got started, most of them agree on one thing, Valentine's Day is a day to celebrate true love.

As we celebrate love, let us not forget what true love is. It is the Agape love of God. Consequently, Bishop Valentine might have given his life helping young lovers get married, but Jesus gave his life that all people could live again. Valentine's Day can be a great day to celebrate love, but let us not forget our "Agape Day," that can be shared everyday! As we give expression of our love to others by presenting flowers, offering gifts, and sending greeting cards (known as "valentines"), let us bear in mind that Jesus gave a more precious gift of love to us — his blood, which was the gift of life.

Annie Robinson Shear is associated pastor of St. Peter Baptist Church, Grover, and associated chaplain of Cleveland Regional Medical Center.