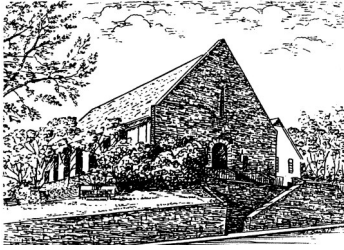


## The Good News



September 2015



## First Baptist Church of Tryon

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Jeffrey C. Harris, Pastor

Candace B. Wilson,

Minister of Music and Christian Formation

### Chat With the Preacher

The sky is falling!

At least that's what it sounds like whenever I read about the current state of the church. My email inbox and Facebook feed are filled with articles about declining church attendance and participation (I guess that's one of the hazards of having "preacher" friends).

People *are* attending church less often. And more than a few struggling congregations will shut their doors in the years to come. A growing number of people—sometimes called the "Nones"—no longer consider themselves "religious," while others prefer titles like "Spiritual But Not Religious." However you examine it, institutional religion in North America is on the decline.

There are many reasons for this shift, and quite a few of them are our own fault. Too often Christians are known for hostility instead of mercy, condemnation instead of grace, and anger instead of love. There is no doubt that those of us who claim to follow Jesus often do a lousy job.

But I can't help thinking that one of the reasons for the decline is a fundamental misunderstanding of what it means to be Christian (this too is our fault). Too often Christianity is presented as intellectual assent to a particular set of theological presuppositions. In other words, Christianity is mainly presented as a system of belief. And while I have great affinity for the particular (and often peculiar) doctrines of the Christian tradition, this is not the starting place.

The essence of Christianity begins with Jesus' invitation to "follow me." "Follow me" means that Christianity starts with a certain set of practices (ways of living) before it gets around to a certain set of beliefs.

We would do well to follow the words of the Franciscan mystic, Richard Rohr, who writes, "We do not think our

selves into a new way of living; we live ourselves into a new way of thinking."

Jesus invites us into a new way of living, a life of service and sacrifice, a life of generosity, a life that welcomes strangers, practices justice and forgiveness, and loves not only friends and neighbors, but also enemies. This kind of living is at the heart of Christianity, and you cannot simply think your way into this kind of life—you can only arrive at this life through concrete practices. And if you are going to be any good at it, that is—if you are going to reflect the love and life of Jesus—it's going to take a lifetime of practice.

I do not mean to imply that if Christians were only "nicer" then churches would be full and the number of self-identifying Christians would no longer wane. That would be an unwise correlation. But it would be helpful if we were clearer about what it means to be Christian.

It would be helpful to communicate that authentic Christianity requires more than simply "believing in God."

Authentic Christianity is following Jesus into a freeing, demanding, transforming, rigorous way of life. I've been at this way of life for a number of years now, and the truth is, I'm still not very good at it. That may sound strange coming from a "religious professional" but as a parishioner once told me, "Being a professional doesn't necessarily mean you're any good at it, it just means you get paid for it."

I know this: trying to follow Jesus is not boring. This new way of living, which has led to new ways of thinking, is certainly not boring. It makes for an interesting life.

I'm afraid that many folks are missing out on this interesting life because we haven't offered them a true picture of what means to follow Jesus.

And for that, I am truly sorry.

Grace and Peace, *Jeff*

## **WMU SALAD LUNCHEON SEPTEMBER 1**

WMU Group I will meet in the Lair Sunday School room on Tuesday, September 1. The time has been changed to 10:30am so the group may enjoy their yearly salad luncheon. All ladies in the group are asked to bring their favorite salads to share.

## **WORSHIP AT HARMON FIELD SEPTEMBER 20**

An outdoor worship service is scheduled at Harmon Field on Sunday, September 20, at 10:30am. Stan Dotson and Kim Christman are our guest musicians for the day. Kim is a former theatre and creative drama teacher, and her husband, Stan Dotson, is a founder of *In Our Elements* leadership training. Bring a lawn chair as we enjoy church in an outdoor setting. We're also asking for picnic dishes to share as we enjoy food and fellowship with one another afterward. Mark the day on your calendar, and join us!

## **COMMUNION AND BAPTISM, OCTOBER 4**



We'll celebrate World Communion Sunday and the baptisms of Luke Walker, Sydney Waldman, and Stephen Morris on October 4. We hope you can join us for these important celebrations.

## **GUY SAYLES TO LEAD WORSHIP OCTOBER 11**



Dr. Guy Sayles, former pastor of First Baptist Church Asheville, will present "Learning from Hard Experiences": an exploration of how difficult realities--like cancer and its treatment--can lead us to deeper faith and to a more meaningful life, on October 11 at FBC Tryon. This session begins in the Activity Building at 9:30am with a combined adult Sunday School gathering. Guy will also preach during the 11:00 worship service.

Guy is a writer, speaker, and consultant who helps people discover the fullness and flourishing of life, deal with ethical issues, enhance the effectiveness of their leadership, and align their practices with their values.

Guy is a part of the religion and philosophy faculty at Mars Hill University, an adjunct member of the faculty of the Divinity School at Gardner Webb University, and a consultant affiliated with the Center for Healthy Churches. Guy is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Baptist Center for Ethics.

## S.E.E. KICKOFF & KICKBALL

Join us September 13 as we begin our S.E.E. (Sunday Evening Ekklesia) Fall Schedule.

Children and preschoolers activities begin at 5pm in the educational space of the main building, while adults have the option of these studies:

Jeff Harris will lead (in the Activity Building) Adam Hamilton's "Making Sense of the Bible: Rediscovering the Power of Scripture Today."

Stephen Brady will lead (in the Rock House) "Personal Finances from a Christian Perspective" (based on principles of Dave Ramsey).

At 6:00pm we'll share a cookout, and from 6:30pm to 7:30pm we'll play Kickball in the main parking lot. It'll be a great way to "kickoff" the fall.

(S.E.E meets September 13 & 27, October 11 & 25, and November 8)



The church office will be closed on Monday, September 7.

## SEPTEMBER MISSIONS OPPORTUNITY

September's Mission is to promote the #GraceItForward Mission Day. Please tell anyone and everyone you know who might be interested in outreach to our community. Sign up today!

## #GraceItForward Mission Day



We are asking our congregation to make a commitment to help our extended community on October 3 of this year. The #GraceItForward Mission Day represents a time to put hearts and hands toward the mission of reaching out to those who may be hungry, who may not be able to do their own yardwork, who may need a construction project or who may need a helping hand in other ways. Last year, we handed out change for folks to do their laundry; gave away McDonald's gift cards; sang, played games, and did craft projects with local nursing home residents; pulled weeds, chopped wood, built a ramp, collected food, and tried to make a difference in our county. There are projects for all ages and abilities! We're asking for your help again this year. Please consider giving a few hours of your time—we can use your help in the morning or the afternoon.

As one church member stated, "I didn't think I wanted to take the time out of a busy day to help, but I'm glad I did. At the end of the day, it made me feel good inside to help someone who needed it." When we give of our time and talents, we feel blessed as well.

We will have a commissioning event for all volunteers on Sunday, September 27. Prayerfully consider how you can help, and commit today!

## NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS BEGINS SEPTEMBER 6

If you are not presently attending Sunday School, this is a class for you! We hope this will be an intergenerational class for all ages, genders, and life-journeys. Baptists Today, among others, will be the main resource used in this class. The most important resources for the class, of course, will be you, the participants. Bring your curiosity and your questions! We will wonder and wander together. The format of the class will be discussion with Dick Wilson as lead-learner. The class will begin on **Sunday, September 6 at 10:00 am in the parlor**. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact Dick at 828-894-9723. We hope you will join us! If not this class, please find a class that is a good fit for you. We help each other to become more when we learn and grow together.

## CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

This is to remind all Children's parents and Sunday School teachers that our new Sunday School year officially begins on Sunday, September 6, 2015. If your child is moving to a different Sunday School class, he/she will meet the new teacher and see the new room at the close of Sunday School on Sunday, August 30.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER AND PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHER RECOGNITION

All Sunday School teachers and leaders and Public School teachers and workers will be recognized in worship on Sunday, August 30.

## LOVE OFFERING FOR RANDY HUDSON



A love offering will be collected for Randy Hudson to help with medical expenses and handicap accessibility. Randy is Donna Littlefield's father and Ray Hudson's brother, and was in an accident which critically injured him. He is currently in recovery in Atlanta, and we'd like to help Randy with an offering that will help offset the cost of modifications for his ability to be home. Please consider giving generously. Envelopes will be provided for this offering, or you can mark your memo line accordingly.



Linda Fincher enjoys a visit with Ruby Jones at LaurelWoods. Please remember all of our members who may be homebound or unable to visit church with prayers, cards, and visits.



### *What is an acolyte?*

The word acolyte means “companion” or “one who helps.” In accepting the position of acolyte a child/youth agrees to serve as a helper in worship—special helpers to the ministers and those who lead in worship.

### *Who can serve as an acolyte?*

The acolytes that serve at First Baptist are in grades 1-12. If you (or your child) would like to volunteer, please contact Candy Wilson.

### *Important acolyte training*

We want all children and youth who serve as acolytes to understand the importance of this role and the commitment that is made when one volunteers to serve as an acolyte. That is why we have a training session each year for all acolytes. This year our training session will be on **Sunday, September 13** at **5:00 pm** in the church sanctuary. This training session is for all acolytes even if they have attended a previous training session.

## **2016 NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Sunday, July 26, the board of deacons presented the following to serve on the TFBC 2016 Nominating Committee: **Keith Collins, Di Greene, JT Johnson, Judy Lair, Ben McEntire and Renae Waldman.** The committee was approved with a unanimous vote by the congregation. If you are contacted, please prayerfully consider serving.

## **WHITewater RAFTING TRIP**



“We survived the French Broad.” So says the picture above, and the smiling faces prove it. A group of children and adults enjoyed some whitewater rafting during an outing on August 10.

## **POOL PARTY and PIZZA BASH AUGUST 11**



TFBC children took time to enjoy a pizza bash and pool party at Tryon Country Club, before getting ready to head back to school.



# Hooked



The David Stillerman Fishing Project of FBC Tryon

First Baptist Parents,

We'd love to have you and your child/ren go fishing with us. You do not need any fishing equipment (you can certainly bring your own if you wish), experience, or license. We will supply fishing equipment, instruction, drinks, and a light dinner. We do ask that at least one parent be present with your child/ren. This is great opportunity for parents and children to spend time with each other, and with others from our community (especially with foster children and those involved with Big Brothers/Big Sisters.)

Here are a few reasons we think "Hooked" is worthwhile:

- Get outside . . . teach kids to enjoy and respect the outdoors.
- Encourage friendships . . . with other children and with adults.
- Learn how to fish . . . fishing is a great hobby, that teaches patience and perseverance, builds confidence, and can be enjoyed for a lifetime.
- Have fun!

Our last trip is September 20, and we hope that you can join us:

Sept 20 Tryon Estates 4-7pm

If you plan to attend please RSVP, as that will help us provide the correct amount of fishing equipment, volunteers, and food. For more information or to RSVP please call: First Baptist Church of Tryon at 828.859.5375 or by emailing [tryonfirstbaptist@gmail.com](mailto:tryonfirstbaptist@gmail.com) .



## PEPPER CHOPLIN TO LEAD WORSHIP OCTOBER 25



Mark your calendar now for a very special weekend with composer Pepper Choplin! Pepper will be leading our worship and sharing his music with us on Sunday, October 25. He will have a special rehearsal with the choir on Saturday, October 24 at 7:00 pm. We are so fortunate to have someone of his caliber spend time with us. Pepper Choplin is a genuine and caring person who possesses the gift of music and the heart of a minister.

### WHO IS PEPPER CHOPLIN?

Pepper Choplin is a full-time composer, conductor and humorist. He has gained a reputation as one of the most creative writers in church music today. Beginning his music training at the age of four, he grew up singing and playing piano, trumpet, guitar and banjo. With a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, he went on to earn a Master of Music degree in composition from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

With a diverse musical background, Choplin's compositions incorporate varied styles such as folk, gospel, classical, and jazz. His published work includes over 250 anthems for church and school choirs, 16 church cantatas, and a book of piano arrangements. Over 100 groups have commissioned him to write original works for them. An original hymn, "Come to the Water" appears in the recent Baptist hymnal, *Celebrating Grace*. His anthems consistently appear in the top seller lists of publishers and distributors. Since 1991, his choral music has sold several million copies. Each week, thousands of singers present his music in churches and schools in the United States and around the world. In 2013, he made his Carnegie Hall debut in a joint concert with Joseph Martin. In 2015, Choplin traveled to Lincoln Center where he conducted his new cantata, *Our Father*, based on the Lord's Prayer.

Beyond his choral music, Choplin has produced two humorous CDs and an inspirational recording. In his solo concerts, he moves audiences with his powerful ballads and his hilarious humor.

Currently, he attends Greystone Baptist Church in Raleigh, North Carolina, where he served as Minister of Music for twenty-two years. There in his hometown, Choplin has conducted several mass performances of his Easter and Christmas cantatas in Meymandi Auditorium (home to the NC Symphony) with over two hundred voices and full orchestra. Pepper is married and has three daughters.

## **Vacation Bible School 2015: Big Success!!**

Vacation Bible School was held August 2-6 at First Baptist and was a huge success. We began every evening with an opening in the sanctuary, which was transformed into the G-Force Adventure Park. "Coach" Stephen Morris and Checkers, the Cheetah (Laura Spinks) spent time with us and introduced each evening's activities. Our evenings were filled with Bible stories, crafts, games, music, snacks, and missions activities. We learned how we can move, act, care, and follow. Thursday night VBS participants presented a program in the sanctuary. This was followed by a time of fellowship as we shared in a meal of tacos and sundaes in the Activity Building. Thanks to Paula and Phillip Edwards for preparing and serving the meal and for doing clean-up afterward.

Thanks to everyone who helped make this week happen. We could not have pulled it off without so many helpful volunteers who gave of their time, talents, patience, and sense of humor! Thanks to those of you who helped provide supplies, food, and financial resources. I have listed many of your names below; but, it is not an exhaustive list because so much was done by so many behind the scenes and often, without my knowledge or my request.

You've heard that it takes a village to raise a child. Not only are we, as a community, a part of the village raising the children in our area, but, it also takes a church to put on Vacation Bible School and you helped make that happen!

In God's service with you, Candy

### **VBS Leadership and Workers**

*Registration:* Caitlin Britton, Diane Cothran, Ashlyn Green, Renae Waldman,  
Reva Williams, Dick Wilson

*Snacks:* Susan Smith, coordinator; Joan Feagan, Georgia Pace, Mary Margaret Smith,  
Mike Smith

*Set Design and Decoration:* Bill Kimble, Dan Kimble, Mona Kimble, John Spinks,  
Laura Spinks

*Set-Up and Tech Support:* Dan Kimble, John Spinks, Danny Fox, Dick  
Wilson, Jeff Harris

*Information Coordination:* Jodi Harris, Leslie Raymond, Reva Williams

*Preschool Teachers:* Cathy Johnson and Marian Corn (co-directors) Kathy Ashley,  
Linda Ligon

*Elementary Teachers:* Cathy Arnold, Peggy Edwards, Rayella Dusenbury, Danny Fox,  
Erin Fox, Di Greene, Judy Lair, Lorraine McAtee, Susan Smith

*Path Finders and Assistants with Elementary Group:* Caitlin Britton, Cindy Dusenbury,  
Georgia Garrett, Ashlyn Green, Shelvie Foust, Jamie Greene, Kay  
Greene, Mona Kimble, Sadie McKaig, Stephen Morris, Reva Williams

*Photography:* Diane Cothran

*Clean-up:* A whole bunch of people!



## First Baptist Youth and Parents:

If you're like me, it's a little sad to see the summer end. And yet, I am excited about the fall and especially some of the good things happening at First Baptist—such as working with our youth. I hope that you are ready to get back into the swing of things.

In order for our youth ministry to be successful there is one key factor—**attendance!** If there are only one or two youth present, it is very difficult to have good conversation or to play fun games. The number one way you can support this ministry is to make sure your youth attends. I promise that if you get your youth here, we won't waste their time!

Here are a few reminders about youth group:

- Refuge is the name of our Sunday evening youth gathering, and it is open to all middle and high school students.
- Refuge meets from 6pm to 7:30pm.
- Youth are welcome and encouraged to bring friends.
- We engage in serious Bible study and faith formation.
- We always share a meal (most of the time there is no charge for this meal).
- Occasionally there are special events that require money, if money is ever an issue please let us know.
- We play fun, goofy games.
- If you need help with transportation let us know.
- We encourage youth to think seriously about their faith.
- We welcome questions and doubts.
- When it's time to be serious we collect their cell phones.
- If your youth has special needs (dietary or otherwise) please let us know.

-These are our expectations:

**Be Respectful** *Do to others as you would have them do to you. Luke 6:31 (NRSV)*

No bullying/making fun/leaving folks out, etc. Use appropriate language. Only one person talks at a time. Place your phone in "cell jail" when it's time to be serious. No "smooching!"

**Be Faithful** *Love the Lord your God with all your passion and prayer and muscle and intelligence—and love your neighbor as well as you do yourself. Luke 10:27 (The Message)*

Act like a follower of Jesus. Be kind, practice forgiveness, welcome strangers. Reflect God's love at church, home, and school. Attend Sunday School, Worship, and Refuge as often as possible.

**Have Fun** *I came so they can have real and eternal life, more and better life than they ever dreamed of.*

*John 10:10 (The Message)*

Play! Laugh! Participate! Bring a friend! For goodness sakes, have fun!

Looking forward to a great fall! (2015 fall schedule is on the next page)

*Jeff* Cell: 828.899.1386

*Candy* Cell: 919.649.4502

## YOUTH FALL SCHEDULE 2015

(On SEE nights we begin our time with a meal in the upstairs of the Activity Building, so please drop your youth off upstairs. On non-SEE nights please drop your youth off downstairs.)

- Sept 13            6pm, Refuge Kickoff and Kickball (SEE night)  
We'll eat hot dogs and hamburgers at 6pm, and play kickball against the adults from 6:30-7:30pm.
- Sept 20            4pm-7pm, Fishing at Tryon Estates  
This is the last fishing event of the year and if you join us, you'll catch fish, eat good bbq, and have fun.
- Sept 27            6pm, Refuge (SEE night)
- Oct 4              6pm, Refuge at the home of Robert and Margot Carter
- Oct 11             6pm, Refuge (SEE night)
- Oct 16 (FRI)      LOCK-in on White Oak Mountain, at the Fincher's Shed
- Oct 18             4pm, Serve • Eat • Play at Harmon Field  
(Cropwalk, Potluck Meal, Games)
- Oct 25             6pm, Refuge (SEE night)
- Nov 1              6pm, Refuge Selfie-Scavenger Hunt
- Nov 8              6pm, Refuge (SEE night)
- Nov 15             6pm, Refuge at the home of Philip and Paula Edwards
- Nov 22             No Refuge because of Community Thanksgiving Service
- Nov 29             No Refuge because we do not meet on 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays
- Dec 6              No Refuge because of the Annual Christmas Dinner
- Dec 13             6pm, Christmas Party at the home of Jeff and Jodi Harris
- Dec 20             3pm, Christmas Caroling (dinner at El Sureno to follow)
- Dec 27             No Refuge over Christmas Break
- Jan 10             Refuge resumes

## **2015 Schedule for First Baptist Church, Tryon, NC**

### **AUGUST MISSION EMPHASIS—Christmas in August**

- Sun, Aug 2-Thur Aug 6 Vacation Bible School, 6pm-8pm  
Sun, Aug 9 Lord's Supper, Scholarship Sunday  
Mon, Aug 10 Whitewater rafting trip to French Broad River  
Tue, Aug 11 Back to School Pool Party and Pizza Bash  
Sun, Aug 23 Hooked! Fishing at Derbyshire/Lake Sandy Plains, 4-7pm  
Sun, Aug 30 "I Love My Church" Offering

### **SEPTEMBER MISSION EMPHASIS—Fall Mission Initiative/GraceItForward**

- Sun, Sep 13 SEE (5:00-6:30 pm)  
Sun, Sep 20 Outdoor Worship at Harmon Field (10:30am), picnic  
Hooked! Fishing at Tryon Estates, 4-7pm  
Sun, Sept 27 SEE (5:00-6:30 pm)

### **OCTOBER and NOVEMBER Mission Emphasis—Coat Drive and Shoe Box**

- Sat, Oct 3 Mission Initiative/GraceItForward  
Sun, Oct 4 World Communion Sunday, Baptism  
Sun, Oct 11 Guy Sayles to lead Sunday School, Worship; SEE (5-6:30 pm)  
Fri, Oct 16 Youth Lock-In  
Sun, Oct 18 Harmon Field Event/Crop Walk/Potluck w/local churches  
Sun, Oct 25 Pepper Choplin leading worship  
Fall Party for Children (P-S through grade 5)  
SEE (5:00-6:30 pm)  
  
Sun, Nov 1 All Saints Sunday  
Sun, Nov 8 SEE (5:00-6:30 pm)  
Sun, Nov 22 Communion Sunday  
Community Thanksgiving Service  
Sun, Nov 29 First Sunday of Advent/"I Love My Church" Offering

### **DECEMBER Mission Emphasis—Kathy's Kids**

- Sun, Dec 6 Christmas Drama and Annual Christmas Meal  
Sun, Dec 20 Caroling  
Thu, Dec 24 5:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship

## **REGULARLY SCHEDULED WEEKLY ACTIVITIES (UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED) INCLUDE:**

Sundays	10:00 am	Sunday School
	11:00 am	Worship
	5:00 pm	Children's Choir (grades 1-5)
	6:00 pm	Refuge
Wednesdays	10:00 am	Bible Study (resumes September 16)
	6:00 pm	Handbell Rehearsal (resumes August 26)
	7:00 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal (resumes August 19)

### **Regularly Scheduled Monthly Activities (unless otherwise noted) include:**

3rd Monday of each month:	6:30 pm	Brotherhood
1st Tuesday of each month:	10:00 am	WMU
2nd Tuesday of each month:	7:00 pm	Sisterhood (does not meet in summer)
3rd Tuesday of each month:	6:00 pm	Deacons
3rd Sunday of each month:	11:00 am	Food Pantry Collection

*This is the current schedule for the year. Please note some things may be re-scheduled, added, or changed as needed. If changes occur, you will be notified by email, worship bulletin, newsletter, or announcement in worship. If you have any questions, please contact the church office. Thank you.*



Several weeks ago Mrs. Linda Martin shared potatoes, zucchini, and beans from her garden with her Sunday School class. Oakley Whiteside proudly shows his bean sprouts grown from those shared seeds.

*-picture submitted by Olivia White-*

## September Sunday Schedules

### *Deacons for September*

\*Billy McFarland

Sharon Burrell

Phil Feagan

Beth McCallister

Ed Justice (balcony)

*\*denotes Lead Deacon*

### *Ushers for September*

Sharon Burrell /Joyce Scoggins (front)

Susan Smith (hall)

Tommy Burrell (side)

### *Acolytes for September*

9/6 Hayden Blackwell & Harper Harris

9/13 Verae Upton & Wilson Edwards

9/20 Harmon Field Worship—no acolytes

9/27 Katie Cothran & Elliott Whiteside

### *Children's Church Workers for August:*

9/6 Susan Smith

9/13 Keith & Debbie Collins

9/20 Ellis & Linda Fincher (Harmon Field)

9/27 TBA

## September Milestones

### Wedding Anniversaries

10 Charles & Lib McKeller

11 Lewis & Georgie Hawkins

12 Eric & Melinda Walker

15 Bob & Judy Lair

24 Jimmy & Donna Littlefield

### September Birthdays

1 Robert Earl Arledge, Lawson Carter ('05), Ed Justice, Adam Nobles, Don Ponder

3 Sue Thompson

5 Jimmy Littlefield

6 Di Greene, Andrew Lair ('97)

7 Amber Fincher-McEntire

8 Trey Fincher

10 Ray Hudson

12 Doris Maxwell, Anne Tauber

14 Izabella Jackson ('02), Mason Harris, Alice Prince, Sarah Prince

15 Ruth Cantrell, Peggy Constance, Eric McKaig

16 Joan Feagan, Charles McKeller

19 Elizabeth Burrell

25 Jack Fox ('07)

26 Robert Carter, Cheryl Roach-Taylor

28 Franklin McKaig

30 Ian Stafford ('06), Laura Smith

### Student Birthdays

28 Emily Brady

### Military Personnel Birthdays

19 Sarah Stillinger ('06)