

**Save the Dates:
JUNE 26 – JUNE 30, 2023**

Canton First Family,

This year we are well on our way to having an “over the top - underground adventure” with Cave Quest VBS. Cave Quest (the light of the world) VBS is where kids explore the rock solid foundation of Jesus' love. This VBS is filled with incredible bible learning experiences kids see, hear, touch and even taste! Through team building, exploring games, rockin’ songs, spelunktacular crafts, dinner and desserts, kids learn about following Jesus - the light of the world - and how faith flows into real life and helps kids discover ways to see evidence of God in everyday life. How can you be a part of this fun and exciting Cave Quest? First and foremost, praying for VBS and secondly VOLUNTEERING. The 2 positions we still need people to volunteer for are “Cave Guides” (walking kids from station to station) and a Music Leader. That’s it! All other positions have been filled—SPELUNKTACULAR!!

Thank you for all your support,
Your VBS Team



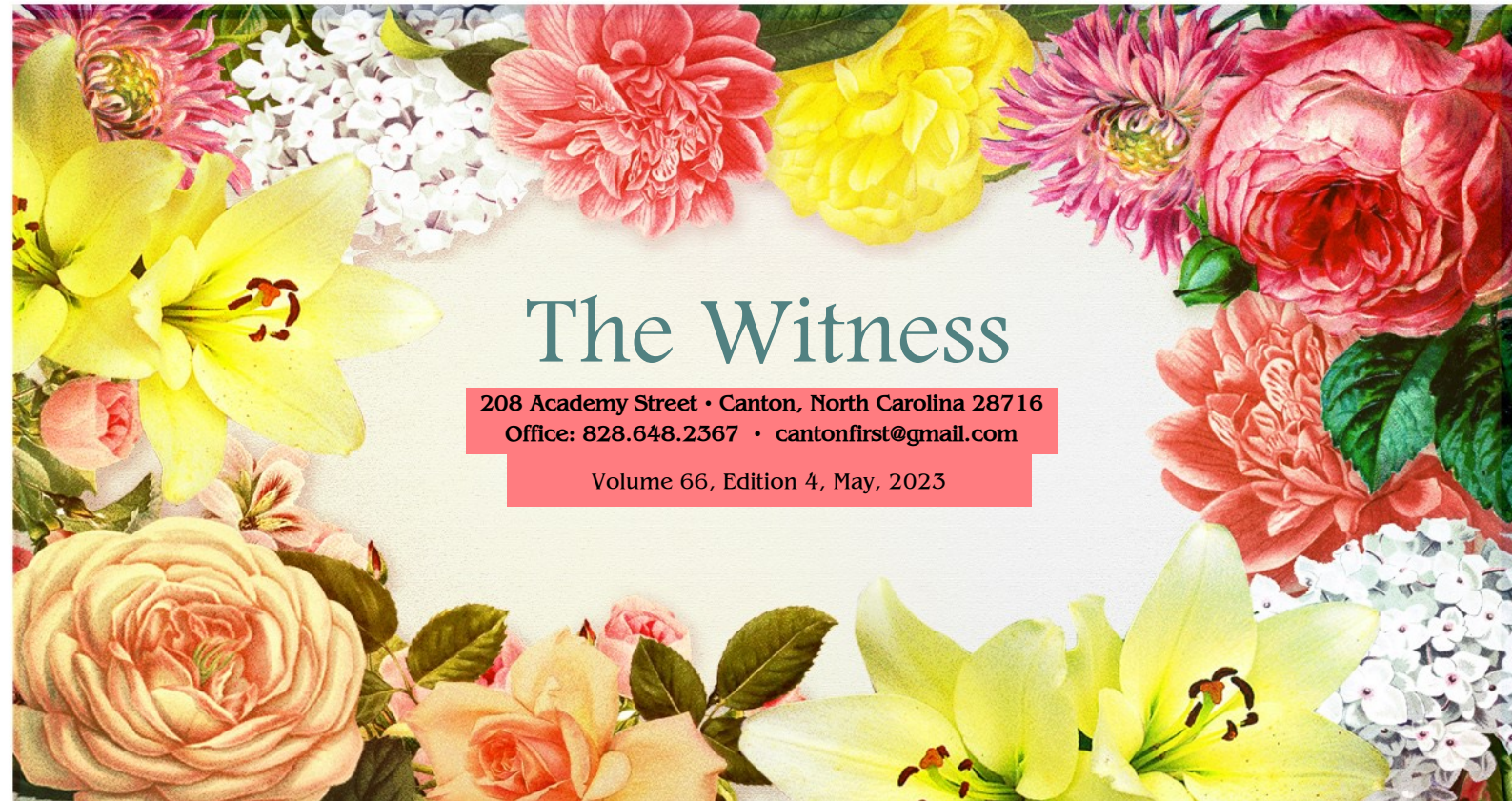
The WITNESS Volume 66, Edition 4, May (Mother's Day) 2023

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The Witness

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Volume 66, Edition 4, May, 2023

To read all of the gospels fishing for clues on the relationship that Jesus had with his mother, trying to compile the definitive story of mother and son, is a very confusing undertaking. On one hand you have Luke’s caring and devoted Mary, and on the other, Matthew barely mentioned one. The fact is, there is no one presentation of Mary and Jesus that any of the gospel writers can agree upon. Perhaps that, in and of itself, is a lesson. When it comes to motherhood, matronly qualities, and the importance thereof, we all have our own opinions. What we, as well as these authors, all have in common is that at one point in our lives, someone carried us into the world. Our mothers’ existences unify us. They do so much more than that, though, so I am going to pick one scene from one gospel and explore what that offers us as we reflect on mothers’ day.

In John 19:25b-27, Jesus is in the process of dying an agonizing death. While many abandoned him, we notice who did not. His mother is there. Beside her stands her sister. They are not, like others present that day, sight seers. They are attending the horrifying event to be with someone they loved, to support him, and to say goodbye. Unmentioned in the scene are the unspoken thoughts that must have been muttered in the silence of the mind. “Who will take care of her,” I imagine Jesus thought, “when I am gone?”

While we do not hear him ask that question, he does verbalize its answer to her and a disciple often called “the disciple Jesus loved.” The end of verse twenty six and all of verse twenty seven report it this way: “Woman, here is your son.” Then he said to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.”

When I sat down to consider a biblical reflection of motherhood, these are the first verses that my mind conjured, for one reason. There is a mother in my life, which I see in person more than I do my own mother. She is one of you. She brings these verses up in my mind multiple times each year, because about once each month she looks me straight in the eyes and asks, “did you talk to or at least text your mom today?”

Our mothers take care of us. In a fallen world I acknowledge that there are some who do not, but I want to at least hope that the vast majority do. So, I do not find that question annoying in the slightest. In fact, I appreciate it. It is a reminder that the person who took care of me has earned the right to be looked in on and even looked after from time to time. It is something I owe her. Getting back to Jesus, though, it is something we all owe one another. If we are to be Christ like, we must imitate Christ. Yes Christ made sure with one of his last breaths in John’s gospel that his mother was cared for after his earthly passing, but that scene reminds me more of what he exemplified than it does one single statement. Christ, in his behavior and teaching, had a motherly quality. He expects us to, like good mothers, take care of one another. He expects us to be motherly, because we are imitating him, and that quality happened to be the cornerstone of his ministry on this earth. He mothered us. He nurtured. He tended. He healed. He did his best to kiss the wounds of and offer hugs to our world. He expects us to do likewise.

So, while I think it is good to be reminded to look in on our moms from time to time — or in the words of that church member, “at least once a day” — the request Jesus made to John may have been more than tending to his mother. It may be that we need to learn to be good mothers ourselves. At the least, we should find a good mother to teach us how to mother this world into feeling a little more loved.

Be blessed,
Court Greene



Tribute
Bonnie Matthews Stamey

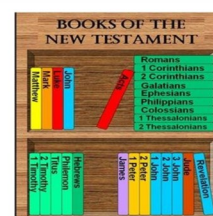
I am delighted to have the opportunity to honor my mother Bonnie Matthews Stamey in a Mother's Day tribute. My mother is a very talented person who graduated Magna Cum Laude, having attended Wake Forest University and Appalachian State University, where she received a Masters degree. She did further graduate work at Mars Hill College, receiving certification as a Reading Specialist. She was later honored as Haywood County Teacher of the Year. As a Reading, English, and US History teacher, my mother made a difference in the lives of many academically challenged students by teaching them to appreciate learning and motivating them to graduate high school. My mother is the finest person I know. She is the person who has always given me a Christian example and has taught me the importance of Christ in my life and the value of a church home. She and my father have both always supported and encouraged me in my own academic and career pursuits and taught the value of the golden rule. Through my mother I continue to see the importance of volunteering to serve the community and of helping others unselfishly. I am very grateful for the example that she has set for me all my life and I am proud to honor her on Mother's Day.

William Gregg Stamey, Jr.

Tribute
Lillian Long Matthews

It is always a joy for me to have the opportunity to praise my mother, Lillian Long Matthews, who went home to Heaven in 2012. I love her, and miss her every day. I treasure her Christian influence more than any of her fine qualities. I have never known a finer Christian than my mother. She was kind and caring to me my entire life. She taught me to pray before I can remember. I also do not remember when church was not a part of my life. At various times she was Sunbeam director, Primary Department teacher, GA leader, Bible School teacher, Intermediate Department teacher and secretary, WMU General Secretary, Berean Sunday School Class secretary, and spent lots of time in the kitchen whenever a meal was held. She saw that I was involved in all age-appropriate church activities. Her example has been a guiding light in my life. I am more thankful for her than I can express. Happy Mother's Day and Happy Birthday (May 9), Mother! I love you now and forever!

Bonnie Matthews Stamey



Wednesday Night
Bible Study

New Series:
"The Little Guys: Small and often overlooked books of the New Testament"

Join online at
www.zoom.us/j/455573873

To join by audio only:
Dial: 1.301.715.8592
Meeting ID#: 455 573 873

COLLEGE
SCHOLARSHIPS



Pick up an application in the Church Office.
Return to Church Office by May 30

APPLY FOR
SCHOLARSHIPS

2023

BACCALAUREATE Service
Wednesday, May 31 @ 6:00 pm
Canton First Baptist Church



Sunday June 4, at 11 am

GRADUATION
SUNDAY
WE HONOR YOU



FRIDAY, May 12
5:30 pm to 7:00 pm

WORK DAY
Saturday, May 20th
Drop by anytime between 10:00 am - 3:00 pm
Work as long/short as you can
FREE PIZZA for Lunch

Thursday, June 1st, 2023
The Community Kitchen
On the first Thursdays of each month we prepare and serve the meals at the Community Kitchen. If you're interested in volunteering call the church office at 828-648-2367.

WOMEN on a Mission
Jean Teague Ladies WMU Circle
Meets the first Tuesday at 10am
Tuesday, June 6th @ 10:00 am
Fellowship Hall

\$25 plus money for supper @ McDonalds (Lunch is provided)
Sign up now
Let Lisa know you're going or call the church office @ 648-2367 to RESERVE your SPOT
Monday, June 19
Meet at CFBC @ 8:15 am



May 14 (Mother's Day)

Sunday School: **Kathy Willetts**
Worship: **Gail Cannon**

May 21

Sunday School: **Sandra Grogan**
Worship: **Kristi Greene**

May 28

Sunday School: **Cathy Walsh**
Worship: **Katie Reeves**

June 4

Sunday School: **Bethany Markey**
Worship: **Gail Cannon**



Children's Church

May 14 (Mother's Day)

Kristi Greene

May 21

Donna Wood

May 28

Kathy Willetts

June 4

Stefanie Effler



Children's Activities with Lisa & Friends!

Stay after Worship for Lunch & Activities one Sunday each month.

Weekly: Sunday at 10:00 am & 11 am

May 21—PIZZA & GRAVEYARD FIELDS (\$10)

June 19—Splash Country—\$25. Lunch is provided. Bring money for supper @ McDonalds.

July 16—Sunshine Bags (\$10)

August—Block Party (Date TBD)

September 17—Gem Mining (\$10)

Mary, the mother of Jesus

Having just celebrated Easter, and with this article's focus being Mother's Day, both holidays are filled with many emotions. Easter is a time of agony, reflection, and then ultimate joy. Motherhood is a time of excitement and joy, filled with anticipation. Easter and motherhood are both miraculous events.

Mary was probably a teenager when the angel announced that she had found God's favor and would deliver the Son of God. She accepted that news. She carried out God's plan. I wonder about all the years that followed. Did Mary favor Jesus over his brothers and sisters? Was He the perfect child, never bickering with His siblings? Did she understand that He would soon leave home to make His way in a world that neither liked Him nor understood Him? Did she have doubts? If so, did she beg Him to stay home?

The first 33 years must have been difficult, but nowhere near as difficult as what she would face during the last days of Jesus' ministry. Scripture doesn't offer us her role in the events that took place after Jesus was arrested and taken to the high priest until John tells us about her being at the cross. I feel as if she was as close as possible during the trials, the beatings, and the long walk down the road to Golgotha. Her heart had to have been broken, and her body must have ached with every blow Jesus received. Watching her son nailed to the cross must surely have been almost more than she could bear. Yet, through all this, she did not leave her son's side.

As Jesus was hanging on the cross, Jesus saw his mother and the disciple John in the crowd. He gave her into the care of John. This proves to me the love that existed between Mary and her son, Jesus. He was not going to leave her unprotected and uncared for.

Thank God the story doesn't end at the cross! When the women went to the tomb after the Sabbath to anoint the body of Jesus, they found that Jesus was not there but had risen. What glorious news! I think Mary was one of the first to hear that good news. Perhaps, when she heard, she remembered some conversations she had with Jesus about what His ministry was. Regardless, I am sure that she was incredibly thankful for His resurrection.

Easter is filled with emotions! Time to reflect on our own lives. It makes us wonder how we handle the good news of Jesus' resurrection? It calls us to imagine a mother's thoughts as well. Let's not keep Him nailed to the cross, but celebrate the wonderful news of eternal life.

John 27: 25-27

Linda Clark

Suzanne Supola – Fondest memory Mother's day

I have many fond memories of my mom (Joan Morrison) but one I remember most was over 20 years ago. My husband and I were living in Colorado and had a 14-month-old baby boy (Carson). I was pregnant with our daughter Mackinney and woke up in the middle of night in labor (at only 22 weeks). We were terrified and rushed to the hospital and Miles called my parents to let them know I had been admitted. To my surprise my mom arrived at the hospital before lunch. She had dropped everything and raced to the airport for the first flight to Denver. She had come to take care of Carson until I could get back home. We lived at 8500 feet in the mountains and there were elk, bear, and mountain lions roaming around. My mom was definitely afraid to stay alone at our house but she was a real trooper and stayed almost two weeks so Miles could be at the hospital with me until his mom arrived. Then, once Mackinney was born (on her due date several weeks later), my mom came back to Colorado to help for a couple of weeks.

Dear Mother,

I guess the last time I wrote you a letter was in the 1970s, after Gary and I moved to the church field in the Low-country, where the distance between us was much less; even the many miles from the Mississippi Gulf coast to the Upstate.

However, there is a place in my memory that has lived there for 63 years. That's right: 1961. Mother's Day. Daddy brought your gift in and set it on the Formica-top kitchen table. He was smiling broadly, looking at your beautiful face with anticipation, knowing you would be so pleased. We children were excited, eager for your squeals of joy, knowing how you appreciated and treasured fine things, whether those things were "things", warm relationships wrapped in love and gratitude, or good meals that should not only taste and smell good but also look good and be pleasing to the eye.

As we watched you open the rather large package, we saw a set of melamine dishes; a whole set. Dinner plates, cups with saucers, salad plates, all in an attractive floral pattern. We thought it was beautiful! Everything matched, unlike the hodgepodge of dishes and cookware you had accumulated since you had gotten married in 1935 when you were 15.

I don't think anybody else noticed the look on your face when you saw your gift: plastic dishes. Plastic. Melamine. The 60s version of "china" for po' folks.

But I noticed, and I have never forgotten what I read on your lovely face that day.

Oh, you did and said all the right things: the "thank yous," the "it's all lovely", etc... Daddy was pleased, thinking he had done well. You kissed him, and hugged each of us. He didn't know about fine china, or crystal, or stuff like that. How would you know when you had to drop out of school at 14 to go to work in a cotton mill?

Mother, you never got the bridal showers where you would have received such things. There was no money. It was 1935, the middle of the Depression. Your Mother had died when you were 6, and your older sisters married young and left to establish their own homes. Your glamorous beauty was meant for all the things that the world considers "fine", the "things" that luxury provides.

Yet, you never cried or whined. You worked, you loved, you gave, and you understood that you *did* have the finest that life can give a woman: a husband who adored you and never ceased to be awed by his treasure, children who agreed with their father, and a never-ending sense of love and gratitude from all who ever knew you and were graced by your presence.

I miss you so, and sometimes I feel so indescribably blue. But then I look at the picture of you that hangs in my bedroom—a picture taken when you were about 20—and sometimes I find myself asking, "Wasn't that really a Hollywood glamour shot?"

No. You didn't need a Hollywood glamour shot.

So I thank you for the legacy you bequeathed. You tried hard to make a lady out of me. I'll give you and me a little credit: I haven't done too badly. And God and I are still working on me.

Happy Mother's Day and please continue to scold me when I need it, encourage me when I lag, and warm me with your beautiful smile.

Your eldest,

Renee'

MAY 2023 CALENDAR

Wednesday	May 10	6:00 pm 7:00 pm	Adult Bible Study: "Little Ones" Adult Choir Practice 🎵🎵
Friday	May 12	5:30 pm	S.O.S. Young Women's Group Mann Sunday School Classroom
Sunday	May 14		MOTHER'S DAY 10:00 am Sunday School Adults-FH, Children - 3rd Floor 11:00 am Worship in-person, Facebook, YouTube & WPTL
Wednesday	May 17	6:00 pm 7:00 pm	Adult Bible Study: "Little Ones" Adult Choir Practice 🎵🎵
Sunday	May 21	10:00 am 11:00 am	Sunday School Adults-FH, Children - 3rd Floor Worship in-person, Facebook, YouTube & WPTL
		12:00 pm	FIRST KIDZ Pizza & Graveyard Fields
Wednesday	May 24	6:00 pm 7:00 pm	Adult Bible Study: "Little Ones" Adult Choir Practice 🎵🎵
Monday	May 29		MEMORIAL DAY
Wednesday	May 31	6:00 pm	PHS BACCALUREATE SERVICE CFBC Sanctuary
Thursday	June 1	4:00 pm	Community Kitchen Ministry
Sunday	June 4	10:00 am 11:00 am	Sunday School Adults-FH, Children - 3rd Floor GRADUATION SUNDAY Worship in-person, Facebook, YouTube & WPTL
Tuesday	June 6	10:00 am	Jean Teague Ladies WMU Circle Meeting
Wednesday	June 7		No Wednesday Night Bible Study: Summer Schedule
		7:00 pm	Adult Choir Practice 🎵🎵
Friday	June 9	5:30 pm	S.O.S. Young Women's Group Mann Sunday School Classroom