

Mt. Pisgah Lutheran Ch. hosts party to honor outstanding local student

Submitted by: Susan Lydick Greene
On August 4th, members of the Mt. Pisgah Lutheran Church gathered at the Wynnshire Ridge Clubhouse in Hickory to celebrate the achievements of one very special young person, Emily Mawyer. At 16, Emily has been a student of the Alexander County School System and is an active member of the Mt. Pisgah Youth program, but is now getting ready to head off on a new adventure. Emily is one of only two students from ACHS accepted into the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics, and is the only student from Alexander County that will be attending the residential program.

Renee Mawyer, Emily's mother, is very proud of her daughter and is excited for this opportunity for her. She says, "Emily is inclined to be successful in everything, she is very competitive and always tries to be the best at everything she does." Mawyer adds, "I was worried, when considering her future, that she might be disadvantaged somewhat, because AC is a small, rural county, but my husband, Anthony, was quick to point out that it isn't something to be concerned about, because Emily is a product of Alexander County school system, so they are obviously doing right by the young people."

There really can be no doubt about that – Emily's record in Beta Club (An

organization whose purpose is "to promote the ideals of academic achievement, character, leadership and service among elementary and secondary school students. Source: www.beta-club.org) speaks for itself. She was a member at ACHS and placed first in Math 1 at the District Competition which was held in Wilkesboro and first in Math 1 at the State convention in Greensboro, February 5th – 6th. The National Convention was held in New Orleans, LA, June 27th – 30th, and she placed 8th in the nation in the Math 1 Competition there. Mawyer states emphatically, "Emily challenges herself to excel, but she has also benefited by having some very excellent teachers at ACHS."

Leslie Barger, Honors Chemistry teacher at ACHS maintains, "Emily is a truly gifted student, and it was an honor to have her in my Honors Chemistry class. She excelled in every aspect of the class while maintaining an average well over 100 for the entire semester. She exemplifies everything that the NC School of Science and Mathematics looks for in a student. Emily is extremely intelligent, highly self-motivated, and exceptionally personable. These attributes, along with her highly developed critical thinking skills, make Emily an outstanding student."

Emily's Freshman English teacher, Ann Herman, remembers Emily fondly, "Emily is such a

dynamic, phenomenal, well-rounded student who I think will achieve great things. She's one of the smartest students I have ever taught. Emily has an insight that few students have, and a wisdom about her that is well beyond her years. Often, you will get that from students who are more gifted with literature and the arts, but they don't have that gift with math and science. She is one of most gifted and intelligent people I've ever known. It so rare to find all of those attributes together, and to also find such a Christian heart." "Often," Herman asserted, "when you have someone who is so talented, you find a huge ego, but Emily doesn't have an ounce of that, she is a humble spirit."

Students attending NCSSM are selected during their 10th-grade year through a competitive process that considers each applicant's interest in science and mathematics, and includes a review of standardized test scores, past academic performance, special talents, accomplishments, and extracurricular interests. Students' essays and their current schools' assessments of student characteristics also help present a complete picture of each candidate.

Barger continues, "In addition to being academically talented, Emily is also talented in many other areas; [she dances, loves music and plays the piano]. She is kind-hearted and always willing to assist her peers in any way she can. She is also very creative, enjoys being challenged, and will flourish at NCSSM. She will be successful in anything she does in life. Emily is a very special young lady, and I extend my congratulations and best wishes to her!"

Emily's journey to Durham does not just leave a hole in the heart of her family and teachers in the Alexander School District; she leaves her entire dance studio missing her. Donna Harrington, Owner of Ms. Donna's School of Dance here in Taylorsville, explains, "Emily began her dance training when she was three years old, and has always loved to dance. She dances Tap, Ballet, Jazz, and Lyrical forms. She is an exceptional dance student and gets along with every student in all of her classes. Emily always has great ideas and is very creative, yet is completely respectful to her teachers. We are a small school, but do not just teach dance, we try to teach morals and Christian values. She is very ambitious and always goes beyond what is expected and has won the "Dancer of the

Year" award."

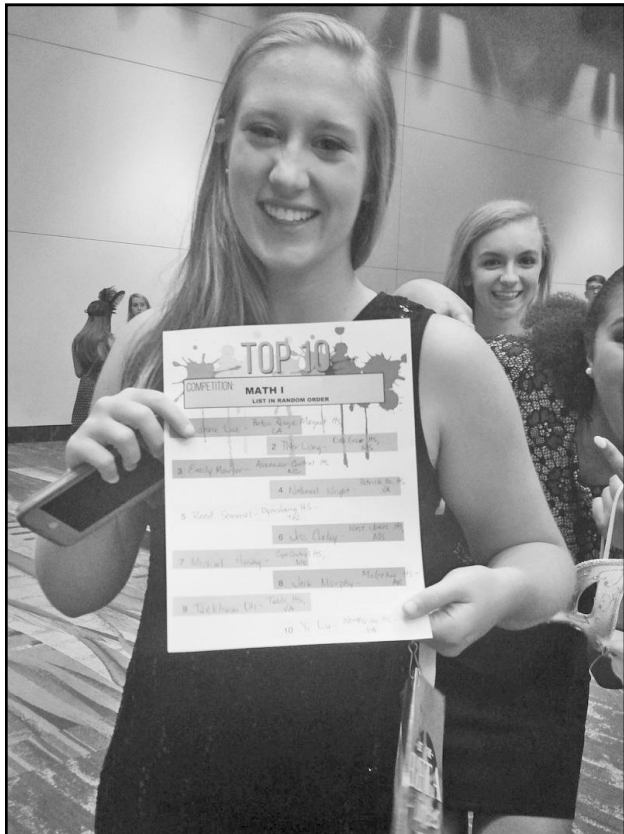
"As a matter of fact," Harrington reveals, "we think so much of her, that we are planning an additional 22 hour class specifically for the exact week-ends when Emily is home throughout the upcoming school year, just so we can have Emily continue in our school. Everyone of her other dance classmates want to attend this class just to work with Emily."

Dance is not the only performing art that Emily excels at either... Celia Sexton, Emily's second long-term piano teacher (Robin Land Reid, owner of Miss Robin Reid's Studio in Taylorsville, was her first) declares, "I am just thrilled that she has this opportunity to go to the NCSSM, because she is probably one of the most gifted young people I have taught. I don't know that I have ever had a student quite that mature, both academically and musically. In the three years I have worked with her it was quite apparent she practiced diligently. She is very committed to anything she works on and is quite amazing. I have never had a student who thrived on the practice and discipline that performing arts require to excel. She is so self-motivated!"

Emily left for NCSSM on August 13th and is on her path towards her new journey. At her goodbye party, Pastor Mike Stone, of Mt. Pisgah Lutheran Church, tried to sum up everyone's impression of Emily – "Emily is a one of the brightest, most sincerely genuine, and articulate teenager I have ever met. She is so capable in math and the sciences, and still has the artistic gift of playing piano and dancing. Her compassion, evidenced in her deeply rooted faith, is by far the most endearing of her many qualities. We will miss her being so active with our youth but are so proud of her and excited to see all that God has in store for her."

Sixteen year old Emily Mawyer has touched many hearts and represents this little county in rural North Carolina with her attendance at NCSSM. Many people who know Emily were interviewed for this article, many more whose thoughts there are no room for here. Every one of them wish Emily the best and are very excited to see her fly and flourish. This writer has to agree; there are great things happening in her future.

She wants to be a neurosurgeon, and many people will be eagerly watching her take this journey. I know this writer will.



TOP 10 - Pictured above: Emily Mawyer places in top 10 in New Orleans Beta Competition, June 27th – 30th, 2016

Alex Friends of Library plan book sale Oct. 6-8

The Alexander Friends of the Library, Taylorsville, will hold the biggest Book Sale ever during the first week of October. This is our main fundraiser of the year and will be held in the same building as last year at 153 Commercial Park Ave SW, one block from Walmart and across from the Alexander CVCC campus in Taylorsville.

Book sale dates for the general public are October 6 & 7 from 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. and Saturday, October 8 from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. People who hold a 2016 membership to the Friends (either Taylorsville or Bethlehem) may purchase books on Wednesday, October 5, from 1 - 6 p.m. That day is reserved exclusively for members. People who purchase a 2017 membership that day will also be able to purchase books. Fee to join is \$10 for an individual, \$15 for a family, or \$8 for a senior citizen or youth. Professional Book Dealers first day to shop is Thursday.

Bill Miller, the Book Sale Coordinator along with Marie Chapman and Lynda Dowdy of the Friends of the Library estimate they have moved, boxed and stored at least 9,500 books, and other related materials that have been donated for this

year's sale.

"Lovers of books can pick up several terrific deals when the Friends hold their book sale," said Laura Crooks, library director.

Mrs. Crooks went on to say, "We are so fortunate to have the Friends' support and advocacy."

Crooks also extended thanks to Bill, Marie and Lynda for their year long help. She said, "I do not know where we'd be without their help each week transporting the books and sorting the books in to boxes for storage throughout the whole year."

The president of the Friends organization, Kathy Riddle, stated, "The book sale's proceeds allow us to provide programs and services for the library that, in turn, benefit the community."

For those of you wanting to donate books for this sale, please do so within the next few days by taking them to the rear entrance of the Library. Ask for assistance from one of the employees there. For any other questions, or to volunteer to work at the book sale, email alexcofriendslibrary@gmail.com or call the Library in Taylorsville, at (828) 632-4058 and ask to leave a message for the president.

Come join us for a "Shop Til You Drop" event.

Craft FAIR

**September 24, 2016
8:00 a.m. til 12:00 noon**

Purchase breakfast as you shop for handmade crafts, homemade cakes, bread and more goodies.

Bring the kids along for a "make it and take it" activity.

Quilt Raffle also \$1.00 per ticket.

**Lakeview Baptist Church
4080 North Center Street
Hickory, NC 28601
828-324-8085**

All proceeds go to fund mission trips.

www.AlexanderLawyers.com

"Serving you, our friends, for over 100 years"

Adams Funeral Home proudly serves the community with professional funeral services at the lowest cost possible.

Funeral packages available tailored to fit anyone's budget.

FINANCING PLANS AVAILABLE

Adams Funeral Home, locally owned and operated.

Have up-to-date obituaries emailed to your computer by going to www.adamsfunerals.com and click on the current obituary page.

"Our Family Serving Your Family"

ADAMS
Funeral Home, LLC.

307 Main Ave. Dr.,
Taylorsville 828-632-2291
www.adamsfunerals.com

We honor all area pre-arrangements and burial associations. All package prices do not include cash advance items, such as sales tax, obituaries, and death certificates.

Staff: Dorthy Bebbler, Johnny Campbell, David Childers, Stan Durmire, Austin Hines, Ronald Dyson, Glenn Fox, Gene McCreary and Glenn Mays

HICKORY SMOKEHOUSE BBQ
PORK • BEEF • CHICKEN • RIBS
Seafood

2450 North Center Street
(Viewmont)
Hickory, NC 28601
(828) 328-2300

**BBQ Restaurant
Seafood Restaurant
Serving Bethlehem and Hickory Since 1987!**

Good Luck Cougars!

Open Monday - Saturday for lunch and dinner. Closed Sundays.

