



**AT MT. PISGAH LUTHERAN CHURCH SERVICE** — Attendees at the First Responder's Service show off completed toy bags for Addy's Giving Heart, which provides stuffed animals and gender-appropriate toys to pediatric patients in hospitals. Above, Mt. Pisgah Pastor Mike Stone (standing far left) is shown with most of the attendees at the special service, held Sunday, September 11, 2016.

## Area First Responders honored September 11

Submitted by Susan Lydick Greene  
On Sunday, September 11th, the National Day of Service and Remembrance, Mt. Pisgah Lutheran Church in Bethlehem invited area First Responders to join with the congregation and be recognized for their efforts in the community and join in a tribute to the 15th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks on America. The service included a special prayer offering a blessing over the First Responder attendees.

Special guests who attended with their spouses and families included, from the Alexander County Sheriff Office: Sheriff Chris Bowman, Chief Deputy, Tod Jones, Deputy Rick Lail, and Lt. Michael Harrison, from the Bethlehem Volunteer Fire and Rescue: Jeff Davis, Josh Davis, Dylan Jolly, (also of City of Newton Fire Department), Douglas Sigmon, John Fox, Logan Walters, and Anna Benfield. Additionally, State Trooper Brandon Travis, State Trooper Brian Sharpe, Officer Justin Dagenhart, and David Cozaart, Battalion Chief City of Hickory Fire Department, attended.

Pastor Michael Stone took time during the children's sermon to explain exactly what it meant to have these special First Responder's in church on this day. Following the message, the children delivered a special gift for each of the visitors, created by Mt. Pisgah's Kids In Christ program to each one. Inside the bag was candy and the following explanation for the candy:

Lifesaver - to remind you of the many times you've been one!

Starburst - for the burst of energy that you need!

100,000 GRAND - since you're not doing it for the money!

Hershey Kisses - to show our love for you!

Gum - to help everyone stick together!

Tootsie Roll - for when you roll with the punches!

Peppermint Patty - helping you keep your cool!

Snickers - to help keep your humor!

Mounds - for the mounds of courage you show!

Pastor Mike, as he is known to his congregation, spoke about God as the number one First Responder. He said, "We have a good Shepherd God who understands what it means to be a First Responder, what it means to go into harm's way, going after the lost, like they did fifteen years ago, digging through the dust and the rubble and the fire and the ashes, looking for even just one survivor. When there's danger, He runs towards it, not away from it. We have a God that has a heart for that, who understands that, that's what he does. We have a God who understands what it means to go into harm's way, to not take the easy way, that when there's danger and there's threat, not to run away."

"We are absolutely honored that these people, dedicated to the safety of our community, chose to worship with us today," stated Susan Lydick Greene, spokesperson for Mt. Pisgah. "I spoke with Sheriff Bowman, and he told me that several churches in the area were having similar services. I think we all felt very appreciative for all of those taking the time to join us, so we could give our thanks to them. I feel we, as a community, want to show that support, give that thanks, but opportunities to be able to do so happen less than they should. THAT is what made the day so special, it was gratifying to every-

one!" Pastor Michael Stone added, "It was such a privilege and joy to have such a large representation of Alexander and Catawba county first responders with us in worship and lunch Sunday September 11th. It was very meaningful to say thanks for all that they do to serve and protect our communities. This recognition was all the more poignant as Sunday was also the 15th remembrance of 9/11 when so many first responders both risked, and lost, their lives in their rescue of others in need. It felt very good to thank these men and women for a job well done!"

Following a barbecue lunch, as acknowledgement of the September 11th National Day of Service and Remembrance, the Mt. Pisgah Community and invited honored guests representing our areas First Responders, took time to assemble gift bags for Addy's Giving Heart. Addy's Giving Heart was founded in 2013 in memory of Addison (Addy) Cook. Addy Cook was an eight year old girl whose short life ended February 24, 2013. Addy's mom, Frances Cook, described her as, "a bright, loving 8 year old, who loved life and everyone in it; she was always happy, with a smile on her face even through all she endured."

In March of 2013, Fran and her mom, Cathy Hebel, resolved to create a way to let Addy's legacy live on. 'Addy's Giving Heart' was born. They started with the idea of filling craft boxes with small stuffed animals and age and gender-appropriate toys. These boxes would then be delivered to area hospitals for their pediatric patients. Their hope was to "spread kindness, one box at a time."

These special boxes from September 11th are destined to be delivered to Jeff Gordon's Children's Hospital in Concord, NC. To date, Addy's Giving Heart has delivered 5,500 boxes and bags of toys to pediatric patients and 2,100 hygiene bags to children in need. For more information, and ways to help, visit <http://addysgivingheart.org/>.

The September 11th National Day of Service and Remembrance is the culmination of an effort originally launched in 2002 by 9/11 family members and support groups who worked to establish the charitable service day as a forward-looking way to honor the sacrifice of those who were lost and those who united in response to the tragedy.

For more information about the National Day of Service and Remembrance, see: <http://www.nationalservice.gov/.../m.../fact-sheets/>

September 11  
The public is invited to enjoy the fellowship of Mt. Pisgah Lutheran Church, located in front of the Lowe's shopping center at 9379 Route 127 North in Bethlehem. For directions and further information, please call the church at (828)495-8251 or visit the website at [www.mtpisgah.elca.org](http://www.mtpisgah.elca.org).

### Homecoming set at Shiloh

Shiloh Lutheran Church will hold their annual homecoming on Sunday, September 25. A meal will be served following the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Everyone is invited to bring your favorite dish and enjoy a day of renewing old acquaintances, making new friends, sharing old stories, pictures, etc. Dinnerware and drinks will be furnished.

Rev. Harvey Blume will deliver a special message for this event. Pastor Blume is well-known in North Carolina. A favorite pastor and friend to many, he has served several local congregations in the area including Shiloh and is a Hickory resident. He has achieved a milestone in his life - 50 years serving God and mankind since being ordained in 1961.

Services are held each Sunday at Shiloh with morning praise beginning at 9:15 a.m., Sunday School for all ages at 9:30 a.m., and the worship service at 10:30 a.m. Holy Communion is celebrated the first and third Sunday of each month and on special occasions.

Everyone is invited to join them at 1011 Shiloh Church Road, Hickory. From Alexander, follow Hwy. 127 to Bethlehem, turn at the traffic light, pass the post office and library, and Shiloh is on the hill.

### ACHS Class of 1981 plans reunion Nov. 5

The Alexander Central High School Class of 1981 is planning their 35th Reunion on Saturday, November 5, at Brushy Mountain Golf Club. Any classmate who has not been contacted or who knows someone who has not been contacted about the reunion is asked to call one of the following committee members: Sandi Wike - 828-244-6718, Kim Price Johnson - 828-612-3669, or Kim Pennell - 828-635-6563.

For more information about the National Day of Service and Remembrance, see: <http://www.nationalservice.gov/.../m.../fact-sheets/>

**NOW OPEN AT NEW LOCATION**  
9636 HWY. 127 N, HICKORY, NC 28601  
ACROSS FROM TAYLORSVILLE SAVINGS BANK

FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED  
**BOLIEK'S**

**TIRE & SERVICE**  
SPECIALIZE IN ALL MAJOR BRAND TIRES



**NC STATE INSPECTION CENTER**  
Front End Alignments • Brakes  
Oil Changes • Interstate Batteries

FINANCING AVAILABLE THROUGH BASIC FINANCE

**828-495-3639**

9636 Hwy. 127 N.  
Hickory, NC 28601  
(Across from Taylorsville Savings Bank)

MASTERCARD & VISA ACCEPTED

HOURS: MONDAY-FRIDAY 8:00-5:30 SATURDAY 8:00-12:30

To Advertise or Subscribe  
Call: 828.632.2532

HOME OF THE GREAT  
**Pizza Buffet**



All-You-Can-Eat  
Daily Lunch  
And  
Dinner Buffets  
Since 1967!

... including spaghetti, salad bar with over 40 plus items and homemade soup selections.

### LOCATIONS

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>TAYLORSVILLE</b><br>90 Liledoun Rd.<br>Taylorsville, NC 28681<br>828-632-9217             | <b>STATESVILLE</b><br>TAYLORSVILLE HWY.<br>West Park Shopping Center<br>3233 Taylorsville Rd.<br>Statesville, NC 28677<br>704-873-1101 |
| <b>BETHLEHEM</b><br>9467 NC Hwy 127<br>Hickory, NC 28601<br>828-495-8467                     | <b>STATESVILLE</b><br>CINEMA DRIVE<br>1503 Cinema Drive<br>Statesville, NC 28625<br>704-873-0256                                       |
| <b>HICKORY - SPRINGS ROAD</b><br>2467 Springs Rd NE<br>Hickory, NC 28601<br>828-328-3010     | <b>MOORESVILLE</b><br>539-M East Plaza Dr.<br>Mooresville, NC 28115<br>704-799-3330  |
| <b>HICKORY - VIEWMONT</b><br>Viewmont - 1021 2nd St. NE<br>Hickory, NC 28601<br>828-322-2929 | <b>SALISBURY</b><br>Mkt. Place Shopping Center<br>2138 Statesville Blvd.<br>Salisbury, NC 28144<br>704-633-4561                        |
| <b>LENOIR</b><br>1234 Morganton Blvd.<br>Lenoir, NC 28645<br>828-758-8900                    | <b>CORNELIUS</b><br>20129 N. Main Street<br>Suite F & G<br>Cornelius, NC 28031<br>704-896-1606   |
| <b>NORTH WILKESBORO</b><br>1922 West Park Dr.<br>N. Wilkesboro, NC 28659<br>336-667-1912     |  |
| <b>MORGANTON</b><br>1016 Burkemont Ave.<br>Morganton, NC 28655<br>828-437-1515               |  |

### DAILY SPECIALS

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>MONDAY</b><br>Kids Night-Kids Buffet<br>Drink not included. (ages 11 & under)<br><b>\$1.99</b> | <b>TUESDAY</b><br>Senior Night (60+ Age)<br>Senior Buffet and Drink<br><b>\$5.99</b> |
| <b>WEDNESDAY</b><br>Wing Night<br>Enjoy Wings on the Buffet for<br><b>\$9.99</b>                  | <b>THURSDAY</b><br>College Night<br>FREE Drink<br>with College ID                    |

**FRIDAY**  
**\$3.00 OFF** any 1 Large To-Go Pizza of your choice

[www.villageinnpizza.com](http://www.villageinnpizza.com)

**FOOTHILLS Monument Company**  
4861 Hickory Blvd.  
Granite Falls, NC 28630  
Granite • Bronze • Marble  
**828-396-9700 office**  
828-396-9701 Fax  
[www.foothillsmonument.com](http://www.foothillsmonument.com)  
tombstonebill@embarqmail.com

**PAYING TOP DOLLAR**  
Will buy junk cars, trucks & vans. Also, misc. scrap metal including, but not limited to, old appliances.  
Call 704-421-1371 or 704-902-2574

**Alexander County . . .** ★ **SEPTEMBER SPECIAL** ★  
**We ARE Your Dry Cleaners!** **Sweaters 25% OFF**  
Established 1959  
**Wyke's CLEANERS & SHIRT LAUNDRY**  
1413 2nd St. NE (Hwy. 127 N)  
**HICKORY 828-324-8751**  
Hours: M-F 6-6, Sat. 7-2  
Fur Cleaning & Cold Vault Storage • Drive-Up Window Service • On-Site Alterations