

Where Are They Now?

Featuring: Luke Perrin

BY LAUREN WASMUND

Luke Perrin, former Bethlehem Elementary School student and Bethlehem native, has a servant's heart.

"My granddad would often remind us that 'Service to humanity is the best work of life,' and I've spent years trying to figure out what 'service' looks like to me," Perrin said.

He is in his third year of a dual-degree masters program at Duke University where he is studying theology and public policy. His interests and focus relate to ways churches can partner with other nonprofits and public entities to promote equitable public transportation, affordable housing, and poverty reduction.

Perrin graduated from Alexander Central High School in the spring of 2015 and started college at NC State University in the fall. There he studied political science and history.

"I've worked in a variety of non-profit roles over the last few years, including a stint with a faith-based advocacy group on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C.," Perrin said. "Since then, a lot of my focus has turned to statewide politics and I've worked in some organizations that do the bulk of their work within the North

Carolina political scene, alongside volunteering on a couple political campaigns."

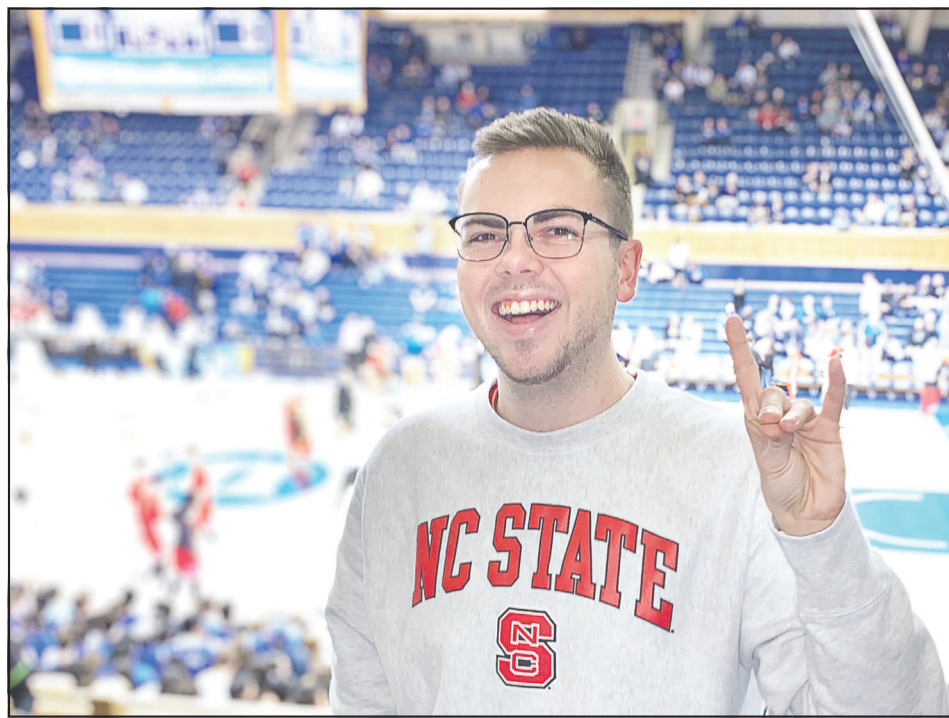
Both of his parents live in Hickory along with his 17-year-old sister and their Olde English bulldog. His 21-year-old sister now lives in Kansas City, MO, after recently getting married.

While he doesn't keep up with many friends from school, he remains great friends with a fellow Bethlehem graduate, Mason Fisher, who also happened to be his neighbor.

Perrin attributes much of his success to the education he received at Bethlehem Elementary, especially teachers such as Jill Hooks, Bink Brown, and Nicole Karod.

"Mrs. Karod told me in fifth grade that I was destined to work in or around government, and for a 10-year-old who was dead-set on either being a film director or a sports journalist, that seemed nonsensical," he said. "Yet, here we are! Mrs. Karod, you were right!"

Perrin's story is just beginning. He envisions a world where the Christian church can be a leader in justice, where it can help in getting food in the hands of people who need it, not only today and tomorrow, but also the day after tomorrow.



A SERVANT'S HEART — Luke Perrin, above, attended NC State University before his dual-degree Master's program at Duke University. Below, Perrin (left) and Zeb Austin (right) were awarded for the school spelling bee at Bethlehem Elementary School.



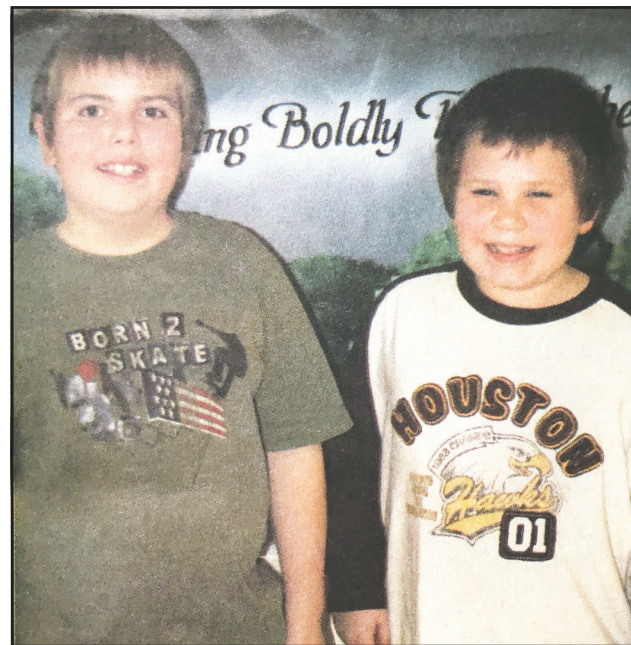
SCOUTS SERVING UP BARBEQUE — Bethlehem Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts are shown above at Mt. Pisgah Lutheran Church October 9, 2021, with prepared barbeque plates. The 600 plates raised over \$6,000 for the troops.

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AUSTIN CLAIMS SPELLING BEE — Bethlehem Elementary fifth-grader Zeb Austin, right, captured the Bethlehem Elementary School Spelling Bee held last week at the school. Austin and runner-up Luke Perrin, left, will represent the school in the county spelling bee set for February 25.

Scout troops hold successful BBQ fundraiser

Girl Scout Troop #12905 and Boy Scout Troop #275 held a successful Chicken BBQ fundraiser on October 9 at Mt. Pisgah Lutheran Church.

Troop leaders, parents, scouts and volunteers such as Shawna Cronan and Ken Wasmund helped to prepare the 600 plates of chicken with sides that sold out quickly.

Toyota of Hickory, Honda of Hickory, Paramount Kia of Hickory and Paramount

Valdesse pre-ordered plates that were made and then delivered ahead of the 12 p.m. start time. The rest of the plates were custom orders from walk-up buyers.

Due to the high number of sponsors who helped provide for food and supply costs, all of the money raised was able to be split 50-50 to each scout group. Over \$6,000 was raised.

Leonard's Express, a long-time sponsor of the BBQ, employees Jody Greene and Ryan and Korin Russell were also at the event, starting at 6 a.m., to help cook the chicken. Leonard's is headquartered out of Farmington, NY but opened a logistics center in Bethlehem a few years ago.

Next Star prints November 18

The next issue of The Bethlehem Star will be printed on Thursday, November 18, 2021. The deadline for advertising and correspondence is Monday, November 15, before 5 p.m.

Veterans' Winter Stand Down set for November 10

2021 Foothills Veterans Winter Stand Down is planned November 10th, 2021, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM, at J.E. Broyhill Civic Center, 1909 Hickory Blvd., Lenoir.

There will be medical services, food, clothing, employment counseling, haircuts, shoes, community resources, education, and fellowship.

This event is planned by Veterans Serving Veterans in Caldwell, Burke, Ashe, Avery, Watauga, McDowell, Alexander, Wilkes, and surrounding counties.

For information, contact: Mark Barber, 828-759-2700; Stanley McCormick, 828-759-4680; Larry McMullen, 828-320-2842. Find them on the web at: www.foothillsstanddown.com.



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