RIBBON CUTTING — Shown above, Carolyn Anderson, Dr. Mark Anderson, John Anderson, Pastor Mike Stone, and Anderson family members cut the ribbon denoting the official opening of the walking path at Mt. Pisgah Lutheran Church in Bethlehem. (Photo by Gary Herman, Alexander County PIO)

Mt. Pisgah Lutheran Church holds dedication, ribbon cutting for new paved walking path

Mt. Pisgah Lutheran Church in Bethlehem held a dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony for its newly-paved 1/3-mile walking path on Saturday, July 2, 2022. Family members of Jerry Anderson, county officials, and church members participated in the ribbon-cutting which officially opened the facility.

The paved track creates a loop around the church campus, located at 9379 NC Highway 127 in Bethlehem. Pastor Mike Stone said the church is excited to offer the trail to the public to enhance opportunities for exercise and fellowship.

Pastor Stone said the walking path construction was completed through a gift given in memory of church member Jerry Anderson by his wife Carolyn and family, in honor of his love for the community and his church. The use of the path and its continued enhancements also honor Mr. Anderson's love for creativity and innovation.

The original unpaved path was made possible by a Peeler Casey grant from the NC Lutheran Synod. The Peeler Casey grant provided for the initial grading of the path and addition of 7 tons of stone to create the base. The Anderson gift provided funding for additional grading, drainage, and pouring of the asphalt surface of the new path. Church members Mike Burris, Sandra Wilkes, Becky Davis, and Gerald Davis have been providing extra efforts to add flowers, shrubs, and trees to enhance the experience as citizens use the paved path. Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts have added such things as picnic tables, book boxes, and food boxes near the trail. Plans call for the addition of a set of Carillion bells which will add a musical touch during path use.

The funding of the walking path by the Anderson family has helped meet a need for both young and old Bethlehem Community residents for a safe and pleasant walking area identified by a recent county community study. The funding of the final construction of the path provides a legacy for a poor Wisconsin boy who made use of his special skills to enhance the space program, the solar energy field, and, most importantly, spread his positive energy to impact all people he met.

Jerry Anderson had special talents in aerospace engineering where he served as a senior engineer on the Titan II ICBM missile and spent multiple years as integrity engineer on the Viking lander vehicles that eventually landed successfully on Mars. Following his aerospace work, he began work in the solar energy field whereby he and his wife developed many international friendships. His successes were documented through two NASA recognitions, a patent for the Viking Thermal Control Device, seven patents for solar thermal sun tracking heliostats and multiple photovoltaic module inventions. Jerry was a world-renowned expert in the field of solar engineering through involvement with worldwide standards in the profession.

After his second retirement from a position in India, Jerry and Carolyn purchased property on Lake Hickory (sight unseen) in Taylorsville. He continued his consulting work and was elected as president of the International Electro Technical Commission until his third retirement in 2002.

Until limited by his health, Anderson was never without a project, including multiple endeavors for Mt. Pisgah Lutheran Church. Always an engineer and perfectionist, he always guided those around him to achieve more than they thought possible. With with a smile, he constantly entertained those around him (sometimes to his family's consternation) with a variety of interesting jokes. He was truly a shining example of traveling from a childhood of poverty to the highest level of performance as a professional, as a patriarch, and as an individual with a unique servant heart. Perhaps even a greater accomplishment was the happy and successful family he and Carolyn built from early years of hardship.

MARKER AT MT. PISGAH WALKING PATH

Carrigan tapped Region Seven's top 4A pitcher

Five members of Alexander Central's conference champion softball team in 2022 were recently recognized as All-District performers.

ACHS grads Faith Carrigan, Peyton Price, and Abby Teague, along with underclassmen Kirstyn Herman and Kenzie Church were voted to the Region 7 4A All-District Squad. The All-Region players are selected by the North Carolina Softball Coaches Association.

Leading the way for ACHS was pitcher Faith Carrigan. The LRU signee was voted the Region 7 4A Pitcher of the Year by the coaches of the region.

The NCSCA will announce All-State recipients soon.

Region 7 is made up of schools from Alexander, Caldwell, Watauga, Avery, Ashe, Alleghany, Burke, Catawba, Davie, Iredell, Surry, Wilkes, and Yadkin counties.

PRICE

TEAGUE

CHURCH

HERMAN

REGIONAL PITCHER OF THE YEAR - Faith Carrigan, who is pictured with her parents Lisa and Eric Carrigan, was recently voted the NCSCA Region 7 4A Pitcher of the Year.

ANNOUNCING . . . .

Visit our website: www.alexfuneralservice.com

• Current Obituaries • Visit our Web Store

• Helpful links for grief & healing • Options for planning ahead

Alexander Funeral & Cremation Service

PO Box 40 · 193 NC Hwy 16 N., Taylorsville, NC 28681

828-635-8002 · 828-635-6248 (Obit Line)

Website: alexfuneralservice.com · Email: alexfuneralsvc@bellsouth.net

• PESTICIDES / INSECTICIDES • FULL LINE OF HARDWARE • ELECTRICAL • PLUMBING • MOWERS • BLOWERS • CHAINSAWS • HEDGE TRIMMERS • AERATORS • SPRAYERS •

GARDEN SEED • GRASS SEED • FERTILIZERS • LIME

WILMINGTON GAS GRILLS • PROPANE FILLING STATION

Killians INC. HERITAGE SINCE 1953

Offering the Finest Lawn Equipment & Service for FOUR GENERATIONS!

SUMMERTIME SALE DAYS!

We Take Pride In Serving Our Customers For Almost 70 Years

0% Financing Up To 42 Months*

Extra $200 Off Select TimeCutters**

Model #75742

Toro® TimeCutter® 42" Zero Turn Mower

• 22.5 HP Toro Commercial V-Twin Engine
• 42" Cutting Deck
• Smart Speed® Control System
• 3-Year Unlimited Hour Residential Limited Warranty

MSRP $3,599 PROMO $3,399

TORO®

Count On It.

WWW.TORO.COM

Killians offers commercial servicing within 24 working hours!

"Like us on Facebook and stay updated on our specials!"

* See dealer for details.

Model #75750

Toro® TimeCutter® 50" Zero Turn Mower

• 23 HP Kawasaki Engine
• 50" IronForged® Fabricated Deck
• Smart Speed® Technology- Trim, Tow or Mow
• 3 Year Warranty

MSRP $3,999 PROMO $3,799

3790 Springs Rd NE, Hickory, NC 28601

Hours: M-F 7:30 AM - 5:30 PM • Sat. 7:30 AM - 2:00 PM

**Certain conditions apply - see dealer for details - Offer Ends 7/31/22

RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL LAWN EQUIPMENT

WWW.KILLIANSINC.COM 828-256-2147