

## “Wedding Day”

The last of the bridesmaids disappeared around the corner, into the church, to the strains of *Canon in D*.

Pastor Matthew James patted his daughter’s hand, cradled in the crook of his right elbow. Rachel glanced toward her father, a tight smile on her face.

“You know,” he whispered to her, “we can still make a run for it.”

Rachel’s smile softened, and Pastor James felt his daughter relax just a bit.

“A little late for that, don’t you think?”

“Never too late. Besides, I’m not sure I’m ready for this ‘giving away’ stuff. Might be doing us both a favor.”

Rachel giggled.

“Mom would never let you back in the house.”

“Well, there is that.”

“I’m good. Really. Just a little nervous. All these people.

“Ah, just a few friends from the bowling team, and a couple of guys from work.”

“Dad ...”

“What? You think I don’t have friends?”

“You’re incorrigible.”

“Not sure what that means, and your mother took my phone, so I can’t look it up.”

Rachel rolled her eyes.

The music stopped, and then, the familiar opening flourish of the *wedding March* began. Pastor James guided his daughter behind the closed doors of the sanctuary.

“I love you, Dad.”

“I know ... now, let’s go get you married.”

The doors swung open, revealing a full sanctuary, everyone standing, looking back toward the vestibule, where Matthew and Rachel stood, framed in the doorway. The love and joy of the congregation hit them like a wave.

The rest of the service was a blur. Matthew walked Rachel down the aisle, and at the appropriate moment, placed her hand in Craig’s and took his seat beside Sarah.

He watched the “I do’s”, and the vows, and the exchange of rings, and the first kiss. He tried not to cry, and failed.

When it was over, he stepped out into the aisle, offered Sarah his arm, and walked her out of the sanctuary.

Pictures took longer than the ceremony, as they always seem to do. The reception, in the ballroom at the Marriott downtown, lasted even longer.

It was ten o’clock before Rachel and Craig left the party. The car was festooned with balloons and streamers and shaving cream, with a couple of bawdy signs, courtesy of their college friends.

“So, where exactly are you taking me?”

“Someplace special.”

“Hmmp.”

They drove for fifteen minutes or so, out of the business and commercial district, and into a familiar residential neighborhood, to the third-floor apartment they had furnished, with the help of friends, a month earlier.

July 2017

Craig parked the car, climbed out, and went round to the other side to open the door. Rachel stepped out, and in one quick movement, Craig picked her up.

“Really?” she said. “We live on the third floor, you know.”

“I’ve been working out. Just hold the keys.”

He carried her up the forty-four stairs, and while he stood, puffing just a little, at the threshold, she leaned over and unlocked the doors.

He carried her inside, through the living room to their bedroom, and set her down, gently, on the bed. The unity candle, from their wedding earlier that day, was already burning on the dresser.

“Who did that?”

“A minion. You didn’t know I had minions.”

“I need my bags, you know.”

“Yes, your highness.”

“I could get used to this.”

“I hope so.”

Craig trotted down the stairs to retrieve her luggage. When he returned, he found Rachel in the kitchen, crying.

“What’s the matter?”

She handed him the card she’d just opened, from the pile of mail on the kitchen counter. It was from Preston.

“How’d he get the address?”

“I don’t know. Facebook?”

Craig read the card, a note filled with vile language and awful, false insinuations.

“What a piece of work!” he said softly when he’d finished reading.

“I’m sorry, Craig. I should have waited for you in the bedroom. I just wanted a glass of water, and I saw the mail on the counter, and I didn’t recognize the handwriting, and I just opened it ... I’ve ruined ...”

Craig put his finger to her lips. He took her hand, guided her to the bedroom, and then, taking the burning candle, he walked with Rachel back through the living room and out onto the balcony.

He held the candle, and Rachel, understanding, lit the corner of the card and watched, solemnly, as the flames licked up the sides. She dropped it on the concrete floor just before the flames reached her fingers.

Craig and Rachel watched the card turn to ash, and then, they stamped out the remaining embers.

“Done?” Craig asked.

Rachel nodded silently.

“I love you,” Rachel whispered.

“And I you”, Craig responded.

They went back inside, to the bedroom, and placed the candle back on the dresser, turning off the lights as they went.

Rachel grabbed her bag, and disappeared into the bathroom.

“I’ll be right back,” she said.

“I sure hope so.”

*To be continued. To read previous episodes, visit [www.moyockbaptist.org](http://www.moyockbaptist.org).*

## MISSIONS

### Deep Impact Team Headed to Nassau

Our Deep Impact team will be headed to Nassau on Saturday, July 8<sup>th</sup>, and returning the following Saturday evening.

While in Nassau, the team, part of a larger group assembled by NC Baptist Men, will conduct two Vacation Bible Schools, and do repair and renovation work in local homes and a church school.

Our team consists of . . .

- Stacey, Jennifer, and Megan Barnes
- Carry and Sarah Dover
- Hannah and Savannah Guill
- Sandra and Drew Holcombe
- Paul and Kristi LaBouve
- Vic Ramsey

Please pray for our mission team as they prepare for the trip, and while they are in the Bahamas.

### July Offering

Our mission offering for July is to support the Deep Impact ministry in Cuba.

After Hurricane Matthew hit the eastern coast of Cuba in the fall of 2016, NC Baptists sent a large water purification unit to the island, providing over 10,000 gallons of clean drinking water every day.

Since that time, NC Baptist Men has been working to provide small water treatment units to churches in various towns in Cuba's rural areas. The church would be able to provide clean drinking water to town residents, and reinforcing its role in the community's center, and creating an avenue to the further spread of the gospel.

Our missions gifts in July will go toward the Deep Impact Cuba project. Please give as generously as you are able.

### Cale Retreat

We encourage children who have finished the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade to consider a week of summer camp at Camp Cale.

A week at Camp Cale involves Bible study and worship, nature activities, ropes courses, a rock wall, archery, swimming, and kayaks, and more.

The cost of a week at camp is \$300.00. For further information, contact the church office, or visit [www.campcale.com](http://www.campcale.com).

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

### VBS Report

Thanks so much to the teachers, refreshment providers, puppet team leaders, and everyone else for the hard work that went into our recent Vacation Bible School.

During the week, we had an average of 128 students, approximately 110 preschoolers and children in the morning, and 18 youth in the evening.

For our mission offering, we collected school supplies for distribution to needy students at Moyock and Shawboro Elementary schools. The cash offering of \$603.77 will also be divided between the hospital and the local elementary schools.

Again, thank you for all the hard work that contributed to a great week in the life of our church.

### Summer Women's Bible Study

Lisa Rose is hosting a summer Bible study. The study is *The Friends of Jesus* by Karen Kingsbury. The cost of a book is 12.99. There's still plenty of time to join.

Thursday, July 6<sup>th</sup> - Chapter 1 & 2 - 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, July 20<sup>th</sup> - Chapter 3 & 4 - 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> - Chapter 5 & 6 - 6:30 p.m.

Speak with Lisa, or contact the church office, to sign up or purchase a copy of the book.

## YOUTH

### Caswell

The "*Way.Truth.Life*" is the theme of the 2017 student conference at Caswell. We have reservations for the week of July 24<sup>th</sup> -29<sup>th</sup>. Fact sheets and reservation forms are in Sign-Up Central.

The Youth-Parent Meeting for Caswell is scheduled for Sunday, July 16<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m., in the fellowship hall. At the meeting, we'll address questions about the week, fill out forms, and discuss itinerary and ground rules. All students planning to attend, and at least one parent of each student, are strongly encouraged to attend.

There remains space at Caswell for other students who would like to go. Contact Pastor Vic for more information.

## PEOPLE

### Welcome New Members

We welcome Veronica Thibodeau to our congregation. Veronica lives on Arabian Lane, near Shawboro Elementary School, with her husband, Steven, and their two sons, Ben and Joe. Veronica works at Howard Hanna Realty in Moyock, and her husband is in the U.S. Navy, currently stationed on the USS George Bush.

We also welcome Jamie Lei Taylor to our church family. Jamie Lei comes to us on profession of her faith during our recent Vacation Bible School. She lives with her parents in Eagle Creek, and attends Moyock Middle School. Jamie Lei will be baptized during the morning worship service on Sunday, August 6<sup>th</sup>.

## PRESCHOOL

### New Preschool Director & Staff

We are proud to announce that Robin Ownby, formerly the lead teacher in our 2-year-old preschool class, has accepted the position as the Director of our weekday preschool program.

In addition, Allison Kentosh, previously serving as the assistant in the 3-year-old class, will become the new lead teacher in the 2-year-old class.

## FELLOWSHIP

### Church Picnic

The church will host its annual church picnic at the property of Buddy and Rosalie Flora on Tulls Creek Road on Sunday, August 6<sup>th</sup>.

Recreation begins at 2:00 p.m., and dinner is served at 6:00 p.m., followed by a vesper service led by our praise band.

The main course, (barbecue), will be provided by the church, as well as beverages and paper products. We ask members to bring side dishes and desserts.

And, by all means, invite your friends to join us for a great afternoon of fellowship.

## CALENDAR

### July

4 <sup>th</sup>		Independence Day Holiday
6 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 p.m.	Stewardship Committee Preschool Committee
	7:00 p.m.	Women's Bible Study @ Lisa Rose's
8 <sup>th</sup> - 15 <sup>th</sup>		Deep Impact Mission Trip
9 <sup>th</sup>	11:00 a.m.	Worship - Guest Speaker Mary Wiles
17 <sup>th</sup>	6:15 p.m.	Catered Dinner
	7:00 p.m.	Church Conference
24 <sup>th</sup> - 29 <sup>th</sup>		Caswell
31 <sup>st</sup>	6:30 p.m.	Church Council
	7:30 p.m.	Deacons

## CHURCH NEWS

### Church Conference

Our regular quarterly conference, previously scheduled for July 31<sup>st</sup>, will be held on Monday, July 17<sup>th</sup>,

At the meeting we will be reviewing the mid-year finances, electing deacons, acting on the Nominating Committee report.

We will also hear a report from the Preschool Committee on plans to renovate the church playground.

It's an important meeting, and we encourage all members to be present.

A free catered meal will be served at 6:15 p.m., And the meeting itself will begin at 7:00 p.m. Nursery service will be provided for the meeting only.

### Pastor's Schedule

The pastor will be accompanying the Deep Impact mission team to Nassau, and will be out of the community from July 8<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, July 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>, will be out of the community on personal leave.

And, from Monday through Saturday, July 24<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>, the pastor will be at Caswell with our youth group.

If you need assistance with a pastoral need while the pastor is away, contact the church office or call your family deacon.

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Pastor - R. Victor Ramsey

Church Secretary - Lori Troitino

Deacon Chairman - David Hart

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"Theologically, if they're over thirty...you're having fellowship...  
if they're under thirty...you're hanging out."

