

the
CRANberry VINE



FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Greetings to each of you our CRAN member. We are well into 2024 and are wondering what this year holds for us. For sure every day that passes puts us one day closer to the return of our Lord and Savior.

I want to thank Linda McIntyre and her team for the great job they have done for the past two years in leading this wonderful organization. We have been blessed.

Sharryn and I are a part of a small group ministry making our way through the inspiring book, *The Way Back to the Altar*. There are eighteen of these small groups in the Hendersonville Church meeting in a variety of locations for a total of seven weeks. The purpose of the book is to help us see, from Scripture, how to build a meaningful relationship with Jesus. The material originally written by Pastor Don MacLafferty has been adapted for use in small group settings. It is proving to be a blessing for all in attendance.

I have said this to say this, Elder MacLafferty will be our guest speaker at our retreat in September. His theme will be, *Back to the Altar*. Let me encourage you to mark your calendar for September 16-19 so that nothing gets in your way to prevent you from attending. And of course, it will again be held at the beautiful Nosoca Pines Ranch.

Until then, we have a great lineup of events for you throughout this year. Notice, carefully, the dates for these events in this newsletter and plan to join us.

—*Barry Mahorney*



Those who receive
The CRANberry Vine by email,
receive it in color. Do you?

EVENTS TO COME —

**MARCH 21—
Fellowship
Meal at Arden
SDA Church,
fellowship hall.
35 Airport
Road, Arden.
Bring your fa-
vorite dish of
food.**

**JULY 11—
Picnic at Mills
River Park.**



YOU ARE INVITED TO CONTRIBUTE

This is your newsletter for you to enjoy reading and being a part of.

Whenever you come across something that is particularly inspirational to you, humorous or interesting, please think of your **CRANberry Vine** newsletter. This might be a short story, poem or just a one-liner. Share it. If you liked it, the rest of us would probably like it also.

Your contributions can be sent to the editor, Sharryn Mahorney by text, email or snail mail—whichever is most convenient for you. These will be inserted as appropriate and we have room.

CHRISTMAS BANQUET AT FLETCHER ACADEMY

Fletcher Academy senior class so kindly treated us to a pasta meal on December 9. The class president told us of their upcoming class trip which was actually a mission trip they chose to Dominican Republic. In response, our retirees opened their hearts and gave **\$5,783** to assist in their building a church. Thank you, Retirees, for helping our students and also the mission work! Then the seniors treated us with special musical numbers.

Many years ago, a poor, dirty, ragged, dissipated tramp found his way into the Bowery Mission in New York. On that particular morning, the pianist was absent and the singing done by that motley crowd was anything but good. After several failures, Mrs. Bird, the leader, asked for a volunteer to play the piano. The young “hobo” in the back seat heard the request and volunteered. Amid the jeers of those assembled, he rose, slouched along the aisle, ascended the platform with bleary eyes and tousled hair, and seated himself at the piano. Every breath was





MARCH 21 FELLOWSHIP MEAL

Our next event, together, will be at Arden Church fellowship hall, 35 Airport Road in Arden. Eating utensils, plates and punch will be supplied. You are asked to bring a favorite dish of food for all to enjoy! Please arrive by 12:00 with your food, and then we'll eat at 12:30.



Our officers and Board Members for 2024-2025

How can we better serve you?

Please give your suggestions to one of our officers!

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held, every eye strained.

Then a new light suddenly came into his eyes, the hopeless look passed away. As the dirty fingers fell upon the keys his entire being was changed, his whole frame quivered with emotion. The piano itself seemed to undergo a subtle transformation. When it was all over, Mother Bird spoke such kind words to the poor tramp, that they broke his heart. He became a Christian and was presently appointed organist of the mission. His fame spread far and wide. Many churches offered him splendid positions, but he remained true to his Bowery friends. Some of the most beautiful gospel songs of recent years are from his pen. He was one of the mission's most successful speakers. He died a martyr to his incessant toil for his suffering fellow men. A beautiful tablet erected in the mission to his memory reads, "Victor H. Benke, died July 15, 1904. The men of the Bowery loved him."

"A word spoken in due season, how good is it!" Out of Mrs. Bird's heart, which was warmed by the love of God, came the words that rescued this poor, hopeless man, and gave the world one of the most beautiful characters of these last days. "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."—Unknown, *Signs of the Times*, June 13, 1906.

March is here and so is the time for our annual dues to be paid. Please plan to pay your \$10 dues (per person) when you come for the March 21 Fellowship Dinner.

Invite a friend to come with you March 21 to the Fellowship Dinner. Invite them to join our retirees' association. Who do you know that you can invite to our special group?

If your address or phone number changes, please let our secretary know. Peggy Peterson, 828-845-5995

PROMISE TO PONDER

Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord will personally go ahead of you. He will be with you; He will neither fail you nor abandon you.

Deuteronomy 31:8 NLT

Carolina Retirees Association Northwest

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RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED

Sharryn Mahorney, editor



PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

