

# the CRANberry VINE



## Where has time gone?

It seems so appropriate that before we get to the holiday season, that I take a few moments to express our gratitude to our God for another year, and to every member of the Retirees Association for their support and confidence in the organization.

The year has not been without its challenges, but through each one of them, and even the worse ones, we saw God's hand leading us. This is why we enter into the Thanksgiving season with hearts full of gratitude and praises to our God.

This has been a busy and challenging year. So many things going on that want our attention! Important things which look very much like the signs of the Second Coming as told by Jesus and the prophets. Sometimes I wonder if we are spending more time looking at the signs than at the event itself and the things that will follow. Even in this, the crafty enemy that we deal with can manage things to make us take our eyes from the real event and pay more attention to the peripherals, thus missing the point. I encourage you to think more about what follows the second coming: heaven, the transformation that we will go through, the beauty of where we are going to spend one thousand years, a life time without pain, no more death, no more sin etc. etc. There is more profit of thinking about those things than keeping our eyes fixed on all the bad news happening around us, even if they are signs of Jesus' coming.

May God help us to keep our focus on what really matters. God bless each of you as we enter the holiday season and the end of the year.

God bless you all,

*Sam Leonor, Sr.*

President



May you enjoy God's richest blessings this holiday season!

Happy Thanksgiving!!

## Important

**RSVP by Nov 24  
for the Holiday  
Lunch at Fletcher  
SDA Church**

(See page 3 for details.)

Call or text Peggy Peterson at  
828-845-5995.

Or email:

[peggy.merle@yahoo.com](mailto:peggy.merle@yahoo.com)

## Fall Retreat

If you missed our Retreat, you missed a real blessing! We had a spiritual feast, fellowship and good food. A picture is worth a thousand words so enjoy the snapshots.



Officers nominated at the Retreat for the next two-year term beginning January 1:  
President - Joy Thomas  
Vice President - Linda McIntyre  
Secretary - Breta White  
Ass't Secretary - Ellen O'Connor  
Treasurer - Carol Hayes  
Newsletter Editor - Own Spencer  
Hostess - Nancy Powell  
Decorating Chair - Sandy Spencer  
Ass't Decorator - Linda Miller  
Communications - Ron Quick  
Pictorial Directory - Carol Johnson  
Candid Photographer - Bill Johnson





## WHAT 'S NEXT?

### **December 2, 11:30am —Holiday Luncheon at Fletcher SDA Church Fellowship Hall**

1141 Howard Gap Road, Hendersonville NC 28792

This year Fletcher Academy is inviting all CRAN members to celebrate Christmas with them. Every year we enjoy the program that one of the academies prepares for us, and in exchange we donate funds according to everyone's possibility, for projects that are selected beforehand. The benefits this year will go to the Fletcher Academy Senior Class who, if conditions allow, would like to go on a mission trip to the Dominican Republic to assist in the construction of a church in a well deserving area. We encourage all our members to attend this festive occasion and contribute what you are able to this worthy project. Projects of this nature usually have a positive impact on students for the rest of their lives. So please come prepared to donate at the one event that we have each year to help others.

**IMPORTANT: RSVP by November 24** so they can plan accordingly. **Call or text Peggy Peterson at 828-845-5995. Or email: [peggy.merle@yahoo.com](mailto:peggy.merle@yahoo.com)**

## REMEMBERING Our Members

There are no words to express our sadness over the devastating losses in our CRAN family. We eagerly await the resurrection morning when we will be reunited. Our loving thoughts and prayers are with our CRAN family and all who grieve.

**Carol Hayes**, our beloved CRAN treasurer went to sleep in Jesus on Thursday evening, November 4. Our hearts are broken. Carol has been the face of CRAN for many years and she will be greatly missed.

**Oliver Hayes** passed away on October 23.

**Gerald Kenyon** went to his rest on October 26.

Nothing tends to promote health of body and of soul than does a spirit of gratitude and praise. It is a positive duty to resist melancholy, discontented thoughts and feelings — as much a duty as it is to pray. If we are heaven-bound, how can we go as a band of mourners, groaning and complaining all along the way to our Father' house?

*Ministry of Healing, page 251*

## CRAN BOARD MEMBERS

President, Sam Leonor	321-356-1704	<a href="mailto:seleonor@gmail.com">seleonor@gmail.com</a>
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Candid Photographer, Bill Johnson	919-961-4969	<a href="mailto:beecre@gmail.com">beecre@gmail.com</a>

<https://www.cransda.org>

Faith is about counting on Him when we do not know what tomorrow holds.



## Help Yourself to Happiness

Everybody everywhere seeks happiness, it's true. But finding it and keeping it seems difficult to do, difficult because we think that happiness is found only in the places where wealth and fame abound - and so we go on searching in "palaces of pleasure" seeking recognition and monetary treasury - unaware that happiness is just a "state of mind" within the reach of everyone who takes time to be kind. For in making others happy we will be happy, too. For the happiness you give away returns to "shine on you".

By Helen Stiner Rice

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## Act in Faith

Trusting God doesn't alter our circumstances. Perfect trust in Him changes us. It doesn't make life all rosy and beautiful and neat and lovely and financially secure and comfortable. But trust that is rooted in an abiding faith in God makes all that real in us — secure, relaxed, and calm against insuperable odds.

You know one of the most encouraging things about faith? *It pleases God.* In fact, "Without faith it is impossible to please Him." Hebrew 11:6

That's why I want to encourage you. Walk by faith! Stop this plagued biting of nails and weariness of worry that you encourage within when the tests come. Relax! Learn to say, "Lord this is Your battle. This is your Need that You've allowed me to trust You for. And I am waiting for You to do it. I'm willing to wait as long as necessary for You to do the impossible." When God sees this kind of faith He smiles in return and responds, "I'm ready to support you. Give Me that need! Cast it on me!" He stands ready to "support those whose heart is completely His." 2 Chronicles 16:9 These are the kind of people God is searching for. People who act in faith. People whose lives are being turned right side up through perfect trust.

*Encouragement for Life by Church Swindoll*

PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

### Carolina Retirees Association Northwest

693 N Rugby Road  
Hendersonville, NC 28791

RETURN SERVICE  
REQUESTED

Peggy Peterson, editor

<https://www.cransda.org>

