

THE HAPPENING

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The Person Who Most Influenced Me Spiritually



Rev. Nicole Thomas
Pastor

As a young man, the dream was to spend his life on golf courses, touring with the PGA. It was something that came naturally to him;

playing golf. He even spent most of his teenage years on a course, down from his house, along a country road near Indian Lake. His success in the sport would frequently be found in the local newspaper, predicting a career path that included notoriety and wealth, although God had different plans for the young man.

Mike decided, one day and even the days to follow, to surrender and relinquish his dreams, in order to walk in the dreams and will that the Lord had for him. He would become one to lead others to Jesus and also bap-

Nicole's Notes

tize them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. He would counsel young people in marriage and call them to a life centered on Jesus. He would cry out to the Great Physician for healing for those to whom he ministered and witnessed miracles. He sat alongside bed-sides of those, who were preparing to meet their maker, and spent endless hours with grieving families. It would be a lifetime of preaching God's Word and sharing hope with anyone who would listen. Even retired, he continues in the tasks described, above. He is an extrovert, who has never met a stranger and simply connects with those around him no matter their ethnicity, race, socioeconomic status, religion or gender. He has

spent the years, giving of his gifts and talents for the sake of others and has been the biggest spiritual influencer in my life. Most people call him Pastor Mike, but I simply call him dad. He has been Jesus to so many, extending grace and pa-

tience with others and myself, even when undeserved.

He reflects the heart of the Savior and my desire is that I may be one who does the

same! I thank the Lord this day for my daddy! The picture is one of a conversation when we, Rule 19, released our first full album. Love this pic.

Love to you all!

Pastor Nicole



To **Know** the Son
It's Our Mission



The Person Who Most Influenced Me Spiritually

CHARLOTTE BURKHART

"Who has been the most influence in my spiritual growth?" Wow! What a thought-provoking question! At first, I thought, "oh yeah, I know who", but after thinking about it, there is no way I can single out one or two people. God has filled my life with great family members and friends, starting with my parents and grandparents and continuing through my life. And now, I realize that I am watching, learning, and being spiritually influenced by my grown children. God's grace and love is amazing!

I do want to say that over the past 20 plus years my spiritual life has blossomed at Redeemer. The many good hearts here (some who are in Heaven now) have helped me see God in so many places and people. Our

Bible Studies have taught me to interpret and understand God's Word. Our missions and outreach have shown me the importance of giving of money, time, and talents. Our Pastors have brought words written in ancient times to have meaning to my everyday life. But, all in all, it has been you, our congregation, that has and continues to grow me as a Christian. Each of you are an influence for my Christian walk.

So, *never* underestimate the influence you have on those around you, simply by the way you live, behave, and talk. God uses you more times than you know.

I thank all of you for your "influence."

GARY SHUPPERT

I'm guessing many people will, like me, choose a parent as the person who most influenced them spiritually. Inspiration certainly came from my first pastor, Rev. McKinley, at our little Congregational Christian Church in Albany, Indiana.



But ultimately, I have to choose my mother. And, by extension, my grandmother.

My father did not survive WWII, so my mother and I lived with my grandmother until I was age seven. I remember my grandmother reading her Bible often. As an orphan, she had a difficult and traumatic childhood. Then she tragically lost her husband, my grandfather, just months before I was



Dawna Grace Flesher

born. She was left with a farm, a limited education and no real job skills. And yet at her death, hundreds showed up for her funeral, the largest turnout the funeral home had ever experienced. Her Christian influence was substantial on many, not just on me.

But my mother's influence was the most important. I frequently saw her in prayer, although she made an effort to not be obvious. We worshiped at our church regularly, Sunday mornings, Sunday evenings, Wednesday evenings, and every night of the annual revival meetings. A common way to express herself spiritually was through poetry. Her collection of poems is a real treasure. She did not experience a great many rewards on this earth, but she laid up many treasures in heaven.



Nova Fawn Shuppert

The influence of both my grandmother and mother was great. I know that their prayers have followed me. And I'm pretty sure they still follow me today.

NEWS FROM CAMP - CONTRIBUTED BY AL SCHUMM

Covenant Mountain Mission Bible Camp

2390 Horse Hollow Rd.,
Jonesville, Virginia
Website: cmmbc.org

Plan A... No, Plan B... Plan H?

Everyone has a plan A. Those who are well prepared have a plan B. For CMMBC this year, we stopped labeling our plans in late June at H. Make no mistake, this summer has been exceptionally difficult. It would be easy to think that a summer without campers would mean that we have the summer off. However, Covid-19 has kept us from hosting mission teams to provide workers for keeping up the facilities at camp. We are short more than 1500 manhours of volunteer time. We thank God for the work of Paul and Kathy Neumann!

We planned for work teams...and could not do it. We planned to open

the splash pad...with Covid-19 restrictions, we could not do it. We planned for camp... and could not do it. In a summer of hectic planning, re-planning, frustration, discouragement and simply not knowing what to do, God has blessed us. We still struggle and mourn for the loss of summer camp and its joys, but God has blessed CMMBC, and us, in ways that we could not even imagine.

The entire west end of the camp has been cleared and graded for mowing. Gifts have allowed us to not only keep the place in good repair, but to improve many parts of camp. The already purchased food that we could not use this summer has gone out into the community to feed the hungry at food banks and churches. God provided a few 'super volunteers' that have

made the splash pad project far better than we could dream.

This summer has been hard. Please pray for us. In all this, we still thank God for what he is doing to keep and grow the ministry of CMMBC. God has something big in store for this camp. We wait patiently to see what it is.

Blessings,
Joe, & Tammy Faulkinbury



High School students and recent graduates gathered for supper, fellowship and teaching at CMMBC for Revised Senior Camp.



Do you have suggestions for articles you would like to see in the Redeemer Church newsletter? Do you have comments or have information or pictures you would like to submit? Please send an e-mail!

newsletter@redeemer-church.org



- Karen Wittmer Sept. 1
Dan Childs..... Sept. 2
Heather Harper Sept. 6
Amanda Wittmer Sept. 7
Brad Angelini Sept. 8
Lorrie Newmister Sept. 9
Ron Peters.....Sept. 17
Charlotte Burkhart.....Sept. 20
Al SchummSept. 22
Debbie KhulenbergSept. 25
Bev ChildsSept. 26
Tina OttoSept. 28



- Clyde & Charlotte Burkhart...Sept. 4
Dan & Karen Wittmer.....Sept. 17
Gary & Shelby Shuppert....Sept. 18

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