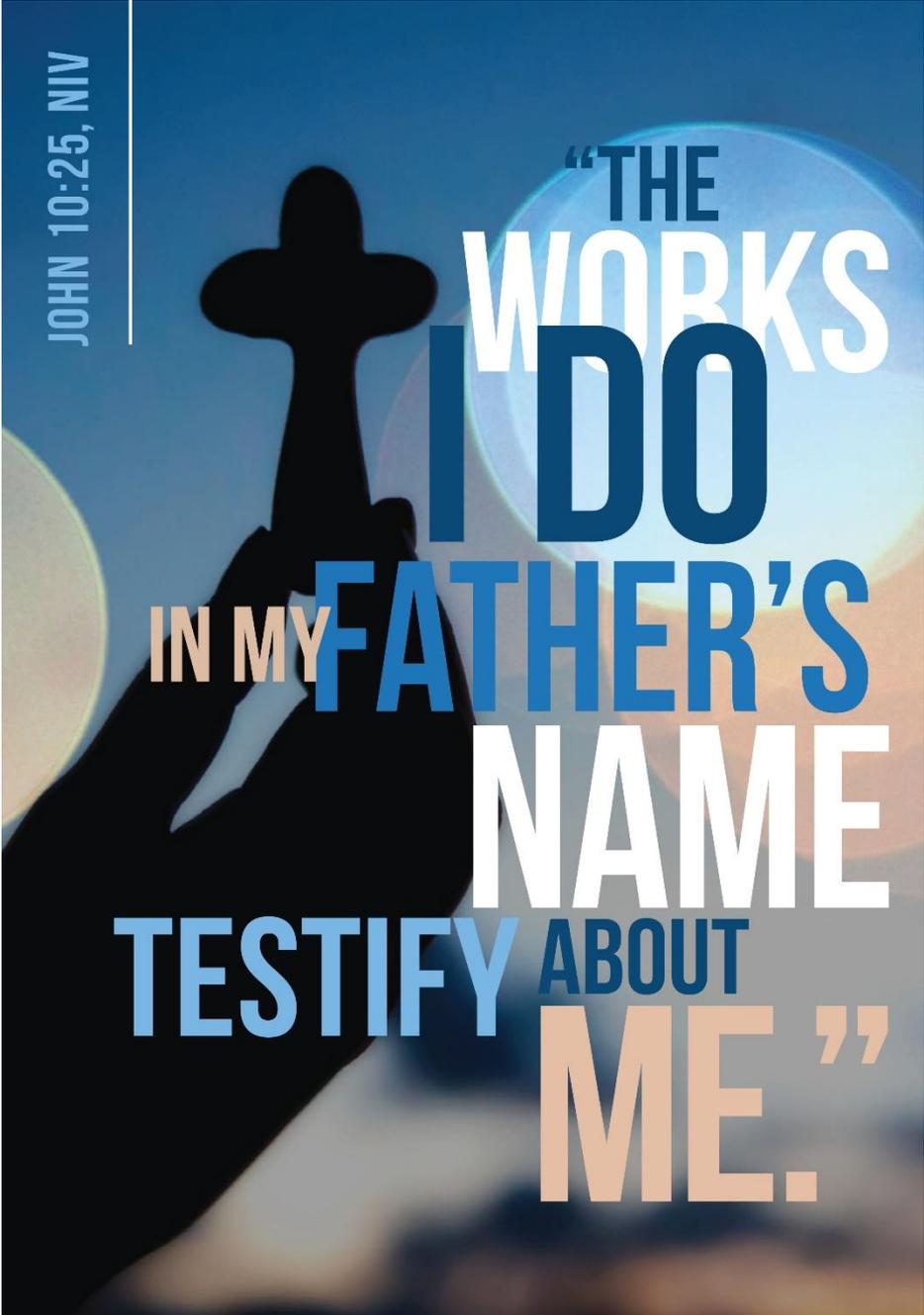


JOHN 10:25, NIV



“THE  
WORKS  
I DO  
IN MY FATHER’S  
NAME  
TESTIFY ABOUT  
ME.”

First Church of the Brethren  
730 Church Street, Eden, NC May 4, 2022

**FIRST CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN**



**BRINGING JESUS TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD**

**EDEN, NC**

Doug Diamond – Pastor

Well, it finally happened yesterday. After jumping through all the hoops and get in all her practice. Felisha got her NC Driver's License. I can vaguely remember getting my license over 30 years ago. That newfound freedom. The ability to go where I wanted, whenever I wanted (as long as my mom said I could and let me use the car.)

Today, she drove to school by herself. She arrived safely but she forgot one thing – to close the garage door. It wasn't a big deal because Acela was home. But it could have been a critical oversight. It could have allowed an animal or intruder or some other unwanted guest to enter. She let down her guard – maybe because she was so focused on doing everything else correctly.

How many times do we do the same thing? We are so concentrated on one thing, that we completely miss something else going on around us. I took a group of youth hiking on the Appalachian Trail a few years ago and stopped for a time of reflection. I talked about how, as we hiked, we have to keep our eyes on the trail to avoid tripping but by being too focused on the ground, we might miss the

things around us. A little while later, out of the corner of my eye, I spotted a baby deer laying along the trail. I pointed it out to the hikers that were close to me, but those who were a little further behind kept their eyes on the trail and missed the deer.

Sometimes, too, we get so focused on what we are doing and what we are going through, that we allow the devil to sneak in and that can cause us to sin. We must stay alert to our circumstances so that we don't get distracted. Oh, by the way, if you see my black Explorer coming, it may be Felisha, so stay off the sidewalk!

*Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

*Hebrews 12:1-2*

# FIRST CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

730 Church Street Eden, NC 27288

Office phone: (336) 627-7063 - Email: eden1stcob@gmail.com

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## **Pray Without Ceasing**

Eugene Barton, Lucy Bradford, Carolyn Combs,  
Melissa Dalton, JT Hale, Barbara Janney, Tania Martin,  
Salem Nelson, Marie Priddy, Aaron Roach, Jutta  
Shelton, Roger Shockley, Patsy Underwood, Leon &  
Gail Walker, Danny Whitley

## **Thinking of You**

Leon & Gail Walker

## **District Prayer Request**

Pray for Carlton R. Hodges, pastor of the Red Hill Church in Roanoke County, Virginia, who anticipates his ordination to the Gospel Ministry. Let us pray that the wideness and breadth of God's work might continue to challenge us to seek wider, greater, and more creative fields of mission and ministry.

The Nurture Commission would like to recognize all graduates of the class of 2022 on Sunday, May 15th. If you have a graduate that you would like to recognize please send pictures and a short write up to the church office no later than Friday, May 13<sup>th</sup>.

## **MOTHERS ARE IMPORTANT**

*“Her children rise up and bless her;” – Proverbs 31:28*

When Thomas Edison’s intelligent and sympathetic mother learned that his teachers felt he had inferior ability, she educated him at home. He said, “My mother was the making of me. She was so true, so sure of me, that I felt I had someone to live for, someone I must not disappoint.” A mother’s love and a mother’s time are vitally important to the development of a child. Just think of the ways we benefit today from the investment of time on the part of Thomas Edison’s mom.

British psychiatrist John Bowlby, said, “The young child’s hunger for his mother’s love and presence is as great as his hunger for food.”

Moms, you’re pulled in so many different directions today. The stress can be unbelievable, but remember that nothing is more important than the investment of time in the life of your child. God’s Word tells us that when a mother does this, her children will rise up and call her blessed, and her husband will praise her, saying, “Many women have done virtuously, but you exceed them all.”

Upcoming Birthdays  
May 10: Matthew Bailey



“Mom — you deserve a  
raise for raising me.”