



FAITH MATTERS

Norwich Baptist Church, 5661 New Jesup Highway, Brunswick, will celebrate its 88th homecoming from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Sunday. Guest speaker the Rev. Paul Lewis. Special Music led by Rita Liphtratt and Ron Dempsey. Service followed by a covered dish fellowship. Details: 265-0494.

First Friendship Baptist Church, 1010 Lee St., Brunswick, at 11 a.m. Sunday hosts the Rev. John D. Perry of Jacksonville. Details: 264-5766.

Abundant Life Fellowship, 103 Buckingham Place, Brunswick, will have Michael Rowan, Evangelist, speaking at 10:45 a.m. and 6 p.m. Sunday.

First Jordan Grove Missionary Baptist Church, 2004 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Brunswick, announces the Rev. Craig Campbell as guest speaker at 10:30 a.m. Sunday.

Burnt Fork Chapel, Georgia 252 between Folkston and White Oak, has its 30th homecoming at 1 p.m. Sunday, dinner on the grounds followed by worship with guest speaker the Rev. Mack Tucker, special music by Neil Buie McClurd. David "Jack" Drury, president of Burnt Fork Historical Association, will give an update on projects for the complex. Details: 576-5084.

Sam's Memorial Church of God in Christ, 230 Blount Crossing Rd., Darien, observes its 71st anniversary at 11 a.m. Sunday.

Spring Hill Baptist Church, 526 Galilee Rd., Brookman Community, honors past historians, since 1865, at 11 a.m. Sunday. Speaker is the Rev. Derry L. Mainor of Camden County, music by the Revs. Leon Mack and Anthony Domacase. Details: 264-1937.

• **More Faith Matters on 3C**

To submit notices to Faith Matters, send material for consideration at least 10 days before the event to Faith Matters, The Brunswick News.

• **By mail** 3011 Altama Ave., Brunswick GA 31521
• **By fax** 280-0926
• **By e-mail** newsroom@thebrunswicknews.com

Services must be special services and events must be open to the public. Information must include a daytime telephone number News editors can use as a contact.



Bobby Haven/The Brunswick News

The Rev. Buzz Yarborough, left, and his son the Rev. David Yarborough.

By VICTORIA LOGUE
The Brunswick News

Like father, like son. The Rev. Buzz Yarborough and his son, the Rev. David Yarborough, have found much truth in that saying — to a point. While both are in the ministry, they have taken different paths toward a similar purpose.

"A father loves to see his son go into the family business. David just went with a different company," Buzz Yarborough said.

In this case, he is talking about his son's decision to pursue a call to ministry in a church different from that in which he grew up. Buzz Yarborough, a former rector at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Brunswick and currently assisting at Christ Church Frederica, grew up in the Episcopal church, a liturgical church that tends to be more traditional in worship and more liberal in theology.

David Yarborough, on the other hand, is pastor at St. Simons Community Church, a non-denominational church that features contemporary worship and music and a more fundamentalist view of scripture and theology. He also writes a weekly column on religion that appears in *The News*.

Buzz Yarborough and his son admitted that though they have followed different paths into the ministry, they have managed to work through the small disagreements they have had over theology over the years.

"I have always loved the 'via media' or middle path of the Episcopal denomination," Buzz Yarborough said. "I like that it is open to questions."

David Yarborough liked the model set by the modern day fathers of church growth — Rick Warren and Bill Hybels of the nondenominational mega-churches Willow Creek near Chicago and Saddleback in California.

"They gave guys like me permission to step out of the box and be culturally relevant with the message," David

Words of the Father & Son

One is an Episcopal priest, the other a non-denominational praise leader, yet they share one purpose

Yarborough said.

Both men, however, have shared the feeling of being called to serve God and both agreed that it was something that it was impossible to run from forever.

Buzz Yarborough said that when he was 12 years old, he had what he felt was a "pretty dramatic" call from God.

"But I ignored it," he said. "When I got married, my wife knew that ministry was a possibility, but I continued to ignore that call. But by 1975, I realized the call wasn't going to go away."

It was then that he entered the process, as it is called in the Episcopal church, toward ordained ministry. He ended up at Seminary of the South, at Sewanee,

Tenn., with his wife, Kaki, and young children, David and Kathy.

"I was ordained in 1978," he said.

"I remember the day exactly," David Yarborough said with a laugh, "because it was Super Bowl Sunday and I was afraid I was going to miss it. The Dallas Cowboys were playing."

But everything worked out — Buzz Yarborough was ordained and the then-young David was able to watch the Super Bowl.

From there, Buzz Yarborough began what is now a 28-year ministry that has led him from Long Island, N.Y., to Brunswick, to Little Rock, Ark., and Gonzales, Texas. Upon his retirement he

returned to the Golden Isles to be near his son and his daughter and her husband, Bill Archer, who live in Jacksonville.

But, while Buzz Yarborough was brought up in the Episcopal denomination and stayed there through college and found his ministry there, David Yarborough said that it was when he went away to college and embraced Christ for himself that he started to branch out from the Episcopal church.

David Yarborough said that when he was graduated from the University of Georgia in 1991, his plan was to go into business. Instead, he found himself responding to the call for a youth minister at an evangelical church in his wife's hometown of Dalton.

"I did that for two and a half years," he said, "before going to Asbury Theological Seminary in Kentucky."

After Asbury, David Yarborough returned to the Golden Isles to work for The Gathering Place, a Methodist church-affiliated teen center.

"That was exciting because it gave me a chance to continue my ministry in what I considered my hometown," he said. In 1999, he was called by the three-year-old St. Simons Community Church to be its pastor. And in the ensuing years, the church has continued to grow.

As Buzz Yarborough struggled with his son moving away from the Episcopal church, it caused some tense moments, theologically, over the years.

"But, we were always able to center on our faith in Christ," David Yarborough said.

"Yes," his father added, "it is because we are Christ-centered and not theologically centered that I have been able to come to a place of acceptance and growing in my faith and David has helped me to find that."

"I'm delighted that Dad retired here," David Yarborough said. "After he does his family-oriented service at Christ Church Frederica, which is at 9:30 a.m., he often comes here to worship with us at 11 a.m."

Search for who we are begins in a garden long ago

Perhaps the fastest growing crime in the United States right now is identity theft. This involves someone accessing your bank account or credit card to make purchases. They literally steal your identity by using your personal information and pretending to be you.

Some estimates say that more than 9 million people a year in the United States are affected by identity theft.

There is another theft that is taking place in many lives everyday as well. It is a case of spiritual identity theft that began a long time ago in a garden far, far away.

Week in and week out, Christians find themselves confused about their true identity. We have forgotten who we



David Yarborough
Local religion columnist

really are. We are the people of God, heirs of the Father, and yet we have an identity crisis.

Do you ever wonder, Who am I? Who am I in relationship to God? Who am I in relationship to the world?

I think a lot of us struggle with some form of identity crisis if we are willing to be honest. It is because we have been ripped off. We have been the victims of an identity theft.

As Christians, one of the most important things we can

discover is our true identity. As the people of God, we are privileged. We have a high status as the children of God. Yet so many of us live far below our status and privilege. We are being robbed blind and don't know our identity in Christ.

The apostle Paul said, I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ (2 Corinthians 11:3). The one who wants to rob us blind seeks to do so primarily by messing with our minds. Paul warned the Corinthians that the same serpent who deceived Eve in the garden is the same one who wants to dupe you and me. Paul was not scared that the

serpent could control their circumstances, but he knew that he could gain access to their minds. He was pointing back to the garden of Eden with Adam and Eve.

Ultimately, Eve was deceived into eating the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. She believed the lies of the enemy that she could be just like God. In her mind she began to believe this lie.

That is what happens when you listen to a lie long enough. You start to buy into it. She went from just thinking about it to wanting it.

Finally she moved into action, and Adam joined her. They had no idea that they were being robbed blind. They had no clue as to the loss they

would suffer. They were guilty for disobeying God. They had rebelled, but they had no clue as to how deep and far reaching the consequences would be.

Humanity suffered some great loss that day. Spiritually, humanity was separated and cut off from God and lost its intimacy with the Lord. Physical pain and death also entered the world. Humanity would now have to live with the enemy of death that would snatch away their loved ones, and one day their own lives.

Humanity also suffered relational loss. Adam and Eve experienced conflict and blame in their relationship. The honeymoon was over and their relationships were impacted. Last of all, there was emo-

tional loss. Man hid from God because he was afraid. He (and she) covered his nakedness because he was guilty and ashamed. Man went from a perfectly integrated soul to a heart full of fear, confusion, anxiety, doubt, guilt, and shame.

Is there any wonder why they began to suffer an identity crisis? And yet their loss is also our loss. We have inherited their sin. Is there any wonder why we find ourselves asking the question, Who am I?

Well, who are you? That's a good question. Next week we can talk more about the answer. And that's the Word.

— David Yarborough is pastor of St. Simons Community Church. Call him at 634-2960.