

THE OBSERVER/ENTERPRISE

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Obituaries

Bethune

On February 14, 2023, at 4:40 pm, Mary Bethune received a personal invitation from God. She accepted and is now in His presence. She went peacefully in her sleep at the Bronte Health and Rehab Center at the age of 72.

She was born February 23, 1950, in Missouri to Eugene and Elizabeth Stratman. Her family moved to Mesa Arizona when she was 14 years old. She later moved to Odessa, Texas, where she raised her two girls. She then moved to San Angelo where she met the love of her life, James Bethune. They were married 26 years. They loved to travel in their RV and they loved to ride their motorcycle. They loved their family, their "fur babies", their church family, and their friends. Even in the nursing home, she still witnessed her love the Jesus Christ and shared bibles to anyone who wanted one. She tried to make the best out of every situation.

She is preceded in death by her parents; her brother, Eugene; her sisters, Carol and Cindy; and her sister-in-law, Lynn.

She is survived by her loving husband, James Bethune; her daughter, Lavonne Lancaster and husband Mark of San Leon, Texas; daughter, Lanette Fletcher and husband Keith of Bronte, Texas; stepdaughters, Trina Cox and husband Alan of Houston, Dawn Setting of New Mexico, and Rachel Gartman of Singapore; grandson, Garret Voth and family of League City, Texas; grandson, Andrew Setting serving in the Navy in his grandfather's footsteps; Cheyenne, husband and family in Albuquerque, New Mexico; along with several other younger grandchildren whom she loved as if they were her own.

The family would like to thank the Bronte Health and Rehab Center for the love and care they showed Mary the last years of her life. Mary loved several of the employees up there like her own kids – she would scold them like her own when they needed it as well.

Per Mary's wishes, there are no pending services. In lieu of

flowers, memorials can be made to The Bronte Health and Rehab Center Auxiliary, P.O. Box 184, Bronte, Tx 76933; Bronte Methodist Church Memorial Fund, P.O. Box D, Bronte, Tx 76933; or to a memorial dear to your heart.

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Death Notice

Halstead

Dickie Mace Halstead passed away February 11, 2023.

He was preceded in death by his father, Mason Halstead, and mother, Elsie Brasher.

Loved ones that will miss Dickie until they meet again are his wife, Bettye Halstead of Milford, Texas; his daughter, Vanessa Conatser and husband Chris of Allen, Texas; his daughter, Shawn Kozlovsky and husband Ricky of Waxahachie, Texas; and his grandchildren, Taylor Fuentes, Kadan Conatser, Addison Kozlovsky, Zoey Kozlovsky, and Jett Conatser; sister, Cheryl Turn and husband Kip Turn of

Midwest City, Oklahoma; and his brothers, Ricky Halstead and Jim Halstead of Arizona.

A visitation was held on Wednesday, February 15, 2023, at Harper Funeral Home from 5 pm to 7 pm. Funeral services were on Thursday, February 16, 2023, at Harper Funeral Home at 11 am. Burial followed at Hylton Cemetery.



Love and Community

By James M. Decker

Let's talk about love.

I'm writing this the day after Valentine's Day, so perhaps this is a cheap ploy, but I'm not talking about a thin sheen of love wrapped around manufactured commercialism.

I'm talking about the difficult, worthwhile, messy sort of love that is so vital.

So, I've been reading Wendell Berry's newest book that was released in October 2022. 528 pages long and packed with 88 years' worth of wisdom, it has caused a stir across the political spectrum, as Wendell is wont to do. The book is titled "The Need To Be Whole: "Patriotism and the History of Prejudice" and it attempts to tackle some of our society's most difficult problems. And as difficult as society's problems are, the solutions are not nearly as difficult.

It would be impossible to

condense the work into a short essay, but the underlying message is to point towards the two greatest commandments. In Matthew 22, Jesus is asked by a Pharisee which commandment is the greatest. Jesus replies, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: "Love your neighbor as yourself." All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.

Love God. Love your neighbor. Jesus made it simple. Everything else cascades from there. And as Wendell observes, the same applies in our so-called "modern" society. Think of all the ills that trouble our world today—wars, environmental degradation, social conflict, economic struggles—and in them, you will find a direct descent from our failures to follow the greatest commandments.

On November 17, 1957, Martin Luther King, Jr. gave a sermon at Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama in which he addressed Jesus's call to love your enemies. Dr. King said "far from being the pious injunction of a utopian dreamer; this command is an absolutely necessity for the survival of our civilization. Yes,

it is love that will save our world and our civilization, love even for enemies."

As I think about the necessity and importance of strengthening community, I think about the necessity of love. To be clear, this is not some pie-in-the-sky impracticality. Merely circling up, holding hands, and singing Kumbaya will not solve all the world's problems. But as Dr. King says, Jesus was very serious in this message. Civilization counts on it. He realized that loving your enemies is very difficult and very necessary. Hatred, even for your enemies, is very destructive. Love creates and redeems.

Recently, a young family in Stamford lost their home to an overnight fire. They are good folks with young children and they lost practically all their possessions. Not to be deterred, the community of Stamford has rallied to their aid. A bank account was started. Myriad folks donated clothes, furniture, and more. A benefit lunch was quickly assembled and it included a silent auction full of items from local businesses who assisted without hesitation. These are the ways that a group of people show love for one another, build each other up, and strengthen the bonds of community.

(Continued on page 5)

Area Churches

Invite You to Worship

Bronte

Bronte Church of Christ
PO Box 346

118 S. Jefferson • Bronte
Sun. 10 am & 6 pm, Wed. 7 pm

Central Baptist Church

324 S. Franklin • Bronte

(325) 473-4811

Dale Patterson, Pastor

Sun. 10 am Sunday School

11 am & 5 pm Worship

First Baptist Church

424 S. Washington • Bronte

(325) 473-2331

firstbronte@gmail.com

Pastor George Cooper

Sunday 9:45 am Sunday School,

10:30 am Worship

Wednesday 6 pm - 8 pm

Children and Youth

First United Methodist Church

Corner of Washington & Holmes

Bronte • (325) 650-4836

Sun. 11:00 am Worship

St. James Catholic Church

215 N. Washington, Bronte

(325) 365-2687

Rev. Timothy Hayter, Pastor

Sunday Bilingual Mass 8 am

4C Cowboy Church

Drawer R • Bronte • (325) 895-4080

Robert Lemmond, Pastor

Sunday, 10:30 am - Texas Theater

Wednesday Bible Study 6 pm -

4C Feedlot Youth Building

Coke County

Pecan Baptist

PO Box 542 • 12 miles West of

Robert Lee on Sterling City Hwy

(325) 453-2065, Bill Hood, Pastor

www.pecanbaptistchurchrl.com

Sun. 10 am, Sunday School

11 am & 7 pm, Worship

Robert Lee

Bible Baptist Church

PO Box 938 • 9th & Austin

Sunday 10 am Sunday School,

11 am and 5 pm Worship,

Wed 5 pm Bible Study

Emmanuel Pentecostal

PO Box 794 • 1004 Hillcrest

Pastor Brantly Robertson

(972) 841-2009

Sundays 10 am, Wednesdays 7 pm

First United Methodist Church

PO Box 144 • 9th & Chadbourne

Robert Lee • (325) 453-2417

Cyndi Weidner, Pastor

Sun. 10 am Sunday School

11 am Worship,

5 pm Choir Practice

Iglesia Bautista Betel

101 Houston • Robert Lee

Sun. 9:45 am • Sunday School

11 am Service • Bible Study Wed. 6 pm

Southside Church of Christ

PO Box 698 • 8th & Houston

Robert Lee (325) 453-2176

Recardo Reyes, Preacher

Sun. 10 am, Sunday School

11 am & 6 pm, Worship

Wed. 6 pm, Worship

Northside Church of Christ

PO Box 508

9th & Chadbourne • Robert Lee

(325) 453-2685, (325) 763-2118

or (325) 473-1053

Services: Sun. 10 am

Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church

601 W. 10th, Robert Lee

(325) 365-2687

Rev. Timothy Hayter, Pastor

Saturday Vigil Mass 6 pm

Robert Lee Baptist Church

PO Box 493 • 22 W. 11th

(325) 453-2724

Chris Walls, Pastor

Sun. 9:45 am, Sunday School

11 am & 7 pm, Worship

Wed. 7 pm, Prayer Meeting

Victory Assembly of God

(325) 453-2208, PO Box 638

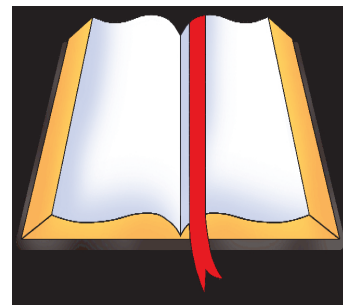
202 E. 6th Street, Robert Lee

Rev. Rocky Youngblood, Pastor

Sun. 9:45 am, Sunday School

10:45 am & 6 pm, Worship

Wed. 6 pm, Bible Study



Edward Jones Member SIPC

Looking for direction in this volatile market? Let's talk.



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