

FALL 2018

FAMILY

north carolina

THE DEMISE OF HEROES

No Throwaway People

The church's role
in battling racism

A Heart for Children

The foster
care crisis

ISBN 0-9785025-1-5



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“If we treat a person with contempt, we are mistreating a person who is made in God’s image; we are hurting somebody whom God loves and for whom Jesus died.” For community activist and minister Willie Hodges Parker, this is the essence of the intersection of racism and the church. She shares her perspective of growing up African American in the 60s and what it was like to move to North Carolina as a teen. Her determination to live without boundaries gives her a unique perspective on the many issues that tend to divide us.

8 The Demise of Heroes

“It can be argued that a society’s heroes speak volumes about the society. If so, we’re in trouble.” In this insightful perspective, Garland Tucker, Senior Fellow at the John Locke Foundation and Retired Chairman/CEO of Triangle Capital Corporation, examines the high cost of the systematic dismantling of true heroes and the subsequent adoption of celebrities with no “classical heroic virtues.”

14 A Heart For Children

The opioid crisis has had a profound domino effect on so many aspects of American culture, including the flooding of the foster care and adoption systems. NC Family contributing writer Julie Tisdale reveals the personal side of this crisis and explains why she and her husband have decided to adopt a group of older siblings. From newlyweds to a family of 7 in a matter of months. Read her story and see for yourself the faces behind the astounding statistics.

20 Q & A

Read excerpts from interviews with policymakers on issues that impact families: Nancy Pearcey discusses the conflict between advocating for human rights on one hand and disavowing God on the other; Dr. Tom Lickona talks about the ways parents can instill important virtues in their children’s lives that will foster kindness and respect; and Catherine Fowler Sample discusses online dating and how it can be done in a safe and healthy way.



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Casting Off Precious Jewels

I've had the pleasure of working as a communications consultant with various amazing non-profits over my professional life. One of the biggest hurdles I often faced was convincing organizational leaders that what they did on a day-to-day basis was exciting, and that their everyday success stories would be inspiring to potential supporters. Because they were so close to their own successes, they often could not see how wonderful they were!

This same loss of perspective is apparently plaguing a number of Americans. It appears some among us have become so accustomed to the brilliance of the U.S. Constitution, and indeed, the very foundational truths of America, that they have forgotten how precious these principles are. In the name of "forward thinking," they casually cast off the freedoms that those before us fought for at great cost and sacrifice, in exchange for a set of unproven and God-less ideals.

It's very similar to good theology. The Bible's entire teachings are brilliant and basically very simple. When asked, Jesus boiled everything down to two main points: Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength and love your neighbor as yourself (Mark 12). A simple concept in theory but very difficult in practice, because it means self-denial, sacrifice and humility. Some would prefer to trade the Word of God for worldly philosophies that are new, unproven over the ages, and certainly not Biblical.

In this edition of *Family North Carolina*, we examine yet another timeless concept that is on the cultural endangered list: Heroes. Many of us are apparently eager to exchange honorable hero archetypes for new models, like celebrities and sports figures whose claims to fame might include being the brattiest, most entitled, richest, and most willing to sleep around. We'll read a perspective from Garland Tucker on the "Demise of Heroes" and how our heroes—or lack thereof—speak volumes about who we are as a society.

Also in this publication, Willie Hodges Parker exhorts all Christians and churches to look at their role in race relations and racism, in an article called, "No Throwaway People." Her fresh assessment of a tough issue is thought-provoking and implores us to get involved.

And finally, Julie Tisdale throws some light on the foster care crisis and how any of us can be a part of the solution. She asks the question: "Is NOT helping even an option for the church?"

In parting, let's hope that we will all be able to discern which aspects of our history and culture are vital for maintaining the vision so brilliantly laid out by those who founded our country and our faith. Lets also fend off attempts by those who would cast off the precious jewels of our Constitution and faith in the name of cultural expediency. 🏠

Traci DeVette Griggs is Director of Communications for the North Carolina Family Policy Council and is Editor of Family North Carolina magazine.



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Once read a statement that greatly impacted my life and worldview: "Our greatest strength as a human race is our ability to acknowledge our differences; Our greatest weakness is our failure to embrace them."

My early development was shaped in an affluent suburban community 25 plus miles north of New York City in White Plains, New York. I was the youngest of a blended family, born to middle aged parents who, in their late forties and early fifties were surprised—or better, shocked—by the arrival of a baby girl. We lived in a community with neighbors of different ethnicities. The city's melting pot was the high school where everyone in the city attended. My best friends and neighbors

were second generation American: Italian, Catholic and Jewish.

Although there were many similarities among us, I saw and heard things in their houses that I did not experience in my own home, like different music, religious and family traditions, and folklore. And yes, they saw and heard things in my home that they had not otherwise experienced.

I grew up thinking difference was good. And for me, the differences and similarities connected us all as part of a human family. We shared in a common struggle of justice, fairness, equality and the pursuit of happiness. I learned to love my neighbors even when they were different.



No Throwaway People

written by:
Willie Hodges Parker

We too often allow ourselves to become socially invisible. However, I have learned that the chameleon approach to life is neither psychologically healthy or spiritually mature.

It was in The Sixties in North Carolina that I was first introduced to the Jim Crow laws of the South and the separation of its citizens into two people groups, colored and white. Blacks were denied, by law, equal access to public facilities, goods and services. The city was divided racially: black and white churches, schools, libraries, transportation, recreation, medical and eating facilities. Even restrooms and outdoor water fountains displayed “COLORED ONLY” and “WHITE ONLY” signs. I was completely ignorant of and unprepared for these unfamiliar customs and lifestyles. These multidimensional, inhumane, oppressive conditions had a profound effect on me

and helped shape my journey to address social issues and injustices from the position of courage, integrity, and love. I resolved to use my voice for good, invest in people and invest in God’s Word. I was determined to be a bold uncompromising Christian repairing wounds of injustices, while challenging difficult issues in Christ-honoring ways.

I began to realize that we are engaged in a culture that wants us to think as the masses think, say what the masses say, and do what the masses do. “Sameness” can become a kind of security blanket that wraps us in the warm feeling of being acceptable to groups we identify with and whose approval we are looking for. We somehow

believe that if we don't stand out, we can't be criticized. We too often allow ourselves to become socially invisible. However, I have learned that the chameleon approach to life is neither psychologically healthy or spiritually mature.

Although we live in a society that wants conformity, we are called by Christ to be different and not to conform, but to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. (Romans 12:2)

At some point, we must take a stand and be who we are meant to be and who God designed us to be as individuals. If we want to be different in a world that wants conformity, then we must settle in our minds, who and Whose we are. We must embrace our design, our unique blueprint—our spirit, soul, and body.

When we do that, when we face ourselves—our limitations, our assets, liabilities, the good, the bad and the ugly—we begin to really realize just how precious we are to God. He loves us just as we are. At an early age, God gave me the opportunity to learn this and to demonstrate the nature and character of His love to those around me. Through those earliest experiences, God was teaching me the first and the greatest commandment to “love the Lord



your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with your entire mind.” And the second is like it: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” (Matthew 22:37-39)

I learned the Christian gospel tells us that racism, classism and sexism are not from God and fundamentally exist because of sin (Galatians 3:28). Christ united Christians of every ethnicity together. He removed ethnicity as a barrier. He removed class and gender as barriers. I found that unconditional love and acceptance are contagious. But so are partiality, favoritism, prejudice, subjugating, dominating, and discriminating. The latter are not part of God's design.

If we treat a person with contempt, we are mistreating a person who is made in God's image; we are hurting somebody whom God loves and for whom Jesus died. Jesus commands us to love one another as He loves us. (John 13:34) Although we may have some different physical attributes (skin color, shapes of eyes and noses, height, weight, age, and many other factors outside our control), we are all of equal value in God's design. There are no throwaway people.

As is the case with all of God's commands, He hides a blessing in these commands for us. Accepting others stretches us beyond ourselves and beyond our limited knowledge of the confined world around us. I understand without doubt that God gifts each of us with His uniqueness and allows the presence of others to pass through our lives for the very purpose of enabling us to act like and become more like Christ. Standing firm on biblical principles, practicing unfeigned love of God, and demonstrating love for God's people—these set Christianity and Christians apart.

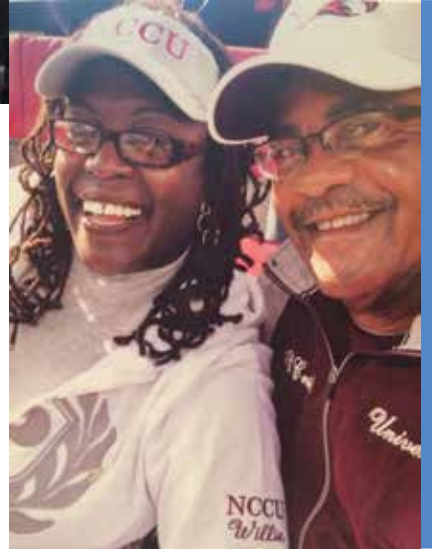


In addition, opening oneself up to diverse relationships provides limitless opportunities for us to learn and grow. It gives us the chance to display and spread God's unconditional love for others.

However, life is a process of growth and there are no shortcuts. Following God's commands—faith in action—is never easy. It is a continuous commitment requiring continual effort and willingness to let God take the lead in our relationships. Reaching out to those different than ourselves often takes courage and commitment.

As Christians, individually and collectively as His Church, we can no longer remain passive, especially around issues of race, gender and human rights disparities. Oppressive systems have negatively impacted generations of people of color and gender. Action steps are desperately needed primarily by the Faith community to take apart systems that uphold racial, gender and class inequities.

I've learned to be who God created me to be, stand alone, stand tall, stand up for my beliefs, determine my own plan, do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with my God (Micah 6:8). I've learned doing nothing is not an option. I'm grateful for reminders that each one of us is a work in progress—a work in process. God uses ordinary people like me and you to do extraordinary things. 🙏



Willie Hodges Parker, retired, earned full scholarships to Columbia University and UNC-Chapel Hill, where she graduated with a Masters Degree in Social Work. Her public service works in New York and with the NC Department of Health and Human Services earned her various recognitions and commendations, including New York Public Service Awards, the Order of the Long Leaf Pine (NC) and Westchester County NY Distinguished Citizen Proclamations. Willie and her husband Barry have been licensed, ordained Ministers since 1987. They are primarily involved in marketplace evangelism and discipleship. Willie and Barry have been members of Colonial Baptist Church, Cary NC for 23 years.

The Demise of Heroes

by: Garland S. Tucker, III





A well-publicized survey of 1,200 junior high students revealed a disturbing fact: today's kids do not have heroes. When asked "Who is your hero?" a majority of students responded "None." For those who could conjure up a hero at all, many identified a popular singer, actor, or sports figure—usually not a person of exceptional character or courage. The next generation seems to have lost the conventional meaning of "hero" and seems to be saying the whole concept of heroism is somehow out of date.

Commenting on the confusion between celebrity-worship and hero-worship, American historian Daniel Boorstin has warned, "We lose sight of the men and women who do not simply seem great because they are famous but are famous because they are great. We come closer and closer to degrading all fame into notoriety."

It can be argued that a society's heroes speak volumes about the society. If so, we're in trouble. As former Education Secretary William Bennett has written, "Such a fad (i.e., the abandoning of heroes) is dangerous because it puts children's ideals, aspirations, and their notions of self-worth in jeopardy." It has always been up to adults to pass along to the next generation through education an appreciation of those individuals—and their character traits—who are worthy of respect, love, and emulation.

How will children know the classic virtues—honesty, civility, industriousness, perseverance, integrity, thrift, common sense, sacrifice, honor, and lack of pretense—lest their parents, families, and teachers instruct them? They are being cast adrift without the guidance of wholesome heroes. Somehow baseness, insensitivity, incivility,

WILLIAM WILBERFORCE

William Wilberforce is one of the great heroes of history, especially in the area of public policy. As a Christian, he understood that each

person is made in the image of God and is our neighbor whom God has called us to love. God worked through Wilberforce for much of his life to help end human slavery in most of the world, where it had existed and had been accepted by many for over 5,000 years.

—Jere Royall, Legal Counsel and Director of Community Impact



HARRIET BEECHER STOWE

Harriet Beecher Stowe wrote a novel published in 1851 that put a human face on the suffering and ruthless treatment of American slaves. It was so shocking that it sold 10,000 copies in the first week and, some say, led to the election of Abraham Lincoln. It fueled outrage in the North and the South (for different reasons) and helped force the eventual resolution and abolition of slavery in our country. The book was entitled, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*.

—Traci DeVette Griggs, Communications Director



callousness, dishonesty, and self-centeredness are seen as more worthy of recognition than the old-fashioned virtues. We have become so interested in muckraking, in unearthing some ulterior motive behind any good deed, and in “de-mythologizing” our history that our children have become cynical.

Biographer Eric Metaxis recently lamented the fact that a generation or two ago, all educated Americans knew their American history pretty well and could quickly offer up their own list of heroes. Sometime in the 1960s, Americans stopped celebrating heroism. “We decided we would focus on the negative narrative—the narrative that says we’re

trouble, we’re not the solution...” This phenomenon has been quite widespread on college campuses, where the cult of anti-heroism still reigns. The subject of heroism has always been taught better by example rather than by analytical definition, but we seem loath to identify any individuals as heroes.

The need for heroes does not imply some universal list of acceptable role models, all neatly fitted into a straightjacketed philosophy. There is plenty of room for disagreement—or, in the popular vernacular, “diversity.” Historian Peter Gyl correctly observed, “History is an argument without end.” Your list of heroes may not necessarily be my list. However, it is critically important that we have heroes and that those heroes exhibit classical heroic virtues.

Columnist Bret Stephens recently offered an example of the kind of inter-generational teaching of heroism which is sorely missing today. He reported a conversation with his 11-year-old son after they

PICKS

NATHANAEL GREENE


Nathanael Greene was a Revolutionary War general who became George Washington's most trusted officer. A self-taught soldier who grew up as a pacifist Quaker, he ended up commanding the Continental Army in the southern theater where he put together a successful campaign that helped secure the British surrender at Yorktown. He has not been as widely celebrated as some other war heroes, partially because of his sudden death shortly after the end of the war, but his heroic



actions were immeasurably important in our country's struggle for independence.

—Jake Sipe, Communications Associate

had watched together the movie "Sully." This movie chronicled the moving story of Capt. Sullenberger's successful rescue of his passenger airplane with a spectacular landing in the Hudson River. Stephens' son wisely observed, "Famous people depend on what other people think of them to be who they are. Sully just cared about whether he did everything right." Stephens then responded, "Sully's character is anchored by a sense of honor and the virtues that go with it: honesty, accountability, selflessness, curiosity, courage, self-possession, modesty... Sullenberger is not a hero because he has great qualities as a pilot; he's a great pilot because he has **heroic qualities as a man.**"

Perhaps the writer of Proverbs understood it best, "Where there is no vision, the people perish." We need heroes for ourselves and for our children. 

LOUIS ZAMPERINI

Louis Zamperini was an Olympic runner, an Army Lieutenant and a prisoner of war during World War II. His post-war struggles with anger and anxiety, alcohol and depression, began a downward spiral from which he was rescued when he received life-changing salvation at the 1949 Billy Graham Crusade in Los Angeles. Later he founded Victory Boys Camp for troubled youth where he was instrumental in guiding young hearts and minds to personal transformation through Christ.



—Pastor Thomas Graham,
Pastor Outreach Director

Garland S. Tucker, III is the retired chairman/CEO of Triangle Capital Corporation, author of Conservative Heroes: Fourteen Leaders Who Changed America - Jefferson to Reagan, and Senior Fellow at the John Locke Foundation. For a footnoted version of this article, please visit www.ncfamily.org.



Voter Guide

NC Family Staff members have made multiple contacts with all candidates in statewide and judicial races as we put together our 2018 General Election Voter Guide. The Guides will be mailed out in early October. Order your Voter Guides in bulk at ncfamily.org. One-Stop (Early Voting) begins October 17th and Election Day is Tuesday, November 6.



Rotary Club

NC Family Pastor Outreach Director Thomas Graham traveled to Elizabethtown and delivered an informative presentation to members of the local Rotary Club about the work and ministry of NC Family, and the need to build strategic alliances with individuals who desire to advance faith, family and freedom in our state and nation.



Advocacy

NC Family President John Rustin testified in opposition to a bill that would have legalized Daily Fantasy Sports gambling in North Carolina. The measure was pulled from consideration by bill sponsors after stiff opposition from committee members and the general public.

CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY

The cornerstone is an important part of the foundation of any structure. All other stones are set in reference to it and it determines the position of the entire structure.

Likewise, NC Family's Cornerstone Community is an opportunity for visionary partners to invest in providing a stable foundation for our work in the years ahead.

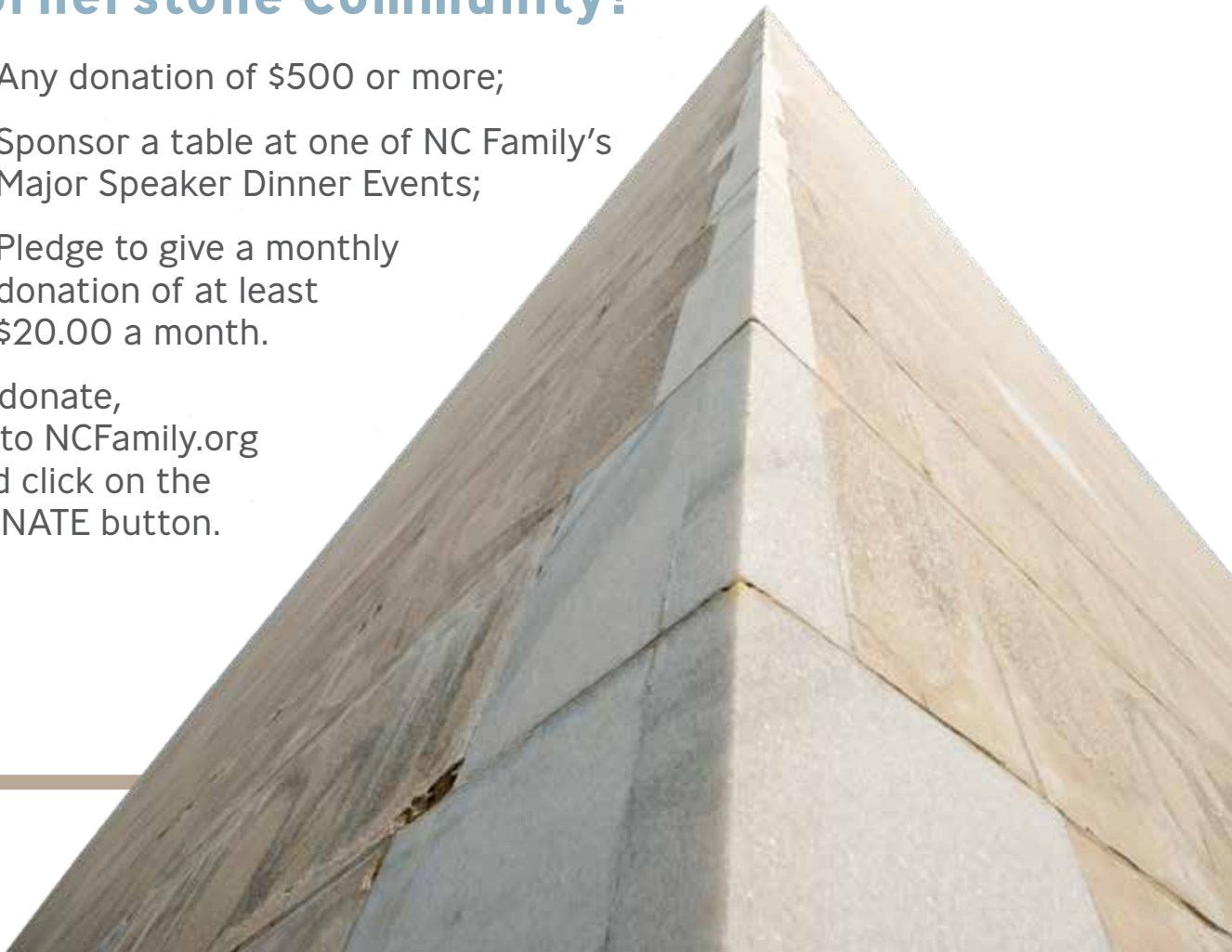
Becoming a member of the Cornerstone Community represents a significant investment in our long-term work. Will you invest in the future of North Carolina and become part of our Cornerstone Community?

How do you join the NC Family Cornerstone Community?

- Any donation of \$500 or more;
- Sponsor a table at one of NC Family's Major Speaker Dinner Events;
- Pledge to give a monthly donation of at least \$20.00 a month.

To donate, go to NCFamily.org and click on the DONATE button.

JOIN US NOW!



A Heart For Children The Foster Care Crisis

written by:
Julie Tisdale



My husband and I are foster parents, with the goal of adopting. When we began the process 18 months ago, we'd been married a year. We both had a particular heart for older children, knowing that, as children get older, they are much more difficult to place in adoptive homes. (See infographic on next page.) So for us, first becoming foster parents with the hope of eventually adopting children made sense. But like most people, we didn't really know a lot about foster care. We knew we wanted to do it, but without really understanding what that meant. Over the past year and a half, we've learned a lot.

We learned that **licensure wasn't nearly as difficult as we'd expected**. It's bureaucratic and takes a bit of time. Foster parents must complete 30 hours of required classes and reams of paperwork, some of which is extremely intrusive. Social workers will visit your home and ask you uncomfortable questions about your personal life. They will make you store all of your medicine somewhere other than a kitchen or bathroom, and require you to post hotel room-style fire evacuation plans in your home. You'll have to get fingerprinted. But none of it is actually difficult. It just requires some time. **It's also not expensive**. The only cost was \$20 for fingerprinting.



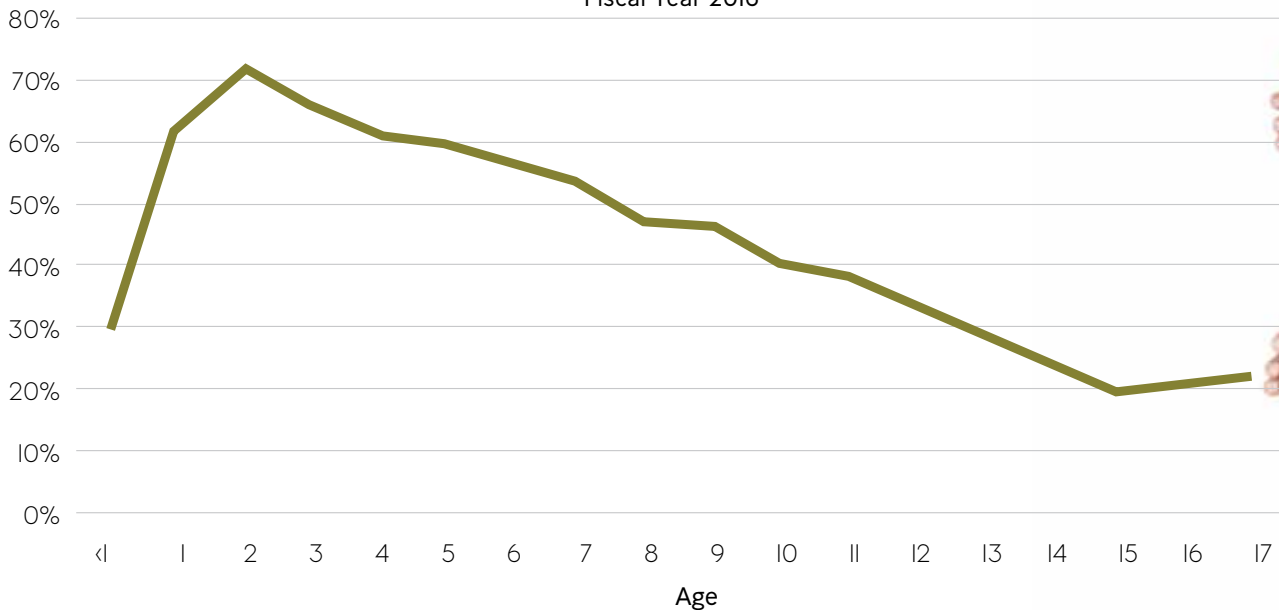
We've learned that **you don't need to live in a big house**. You can own or rent. You can be in a single family home or an apartment. Each child needs to have his or her own bed, but they can share rooms. As long as your housing situation is stable and you have adequate space for a child, the type of housing doesn't matter. In fact, the list of requirements from the NC Department of Health and Human Services consists only of:

- Be at least 21 years old;
- Have a stable home and income;
- Maintain a drug-free environment;
- Be willing to be fingerprinted and have a criminal records check;
- Complete all required training and be licensed by the State of North Carolina.

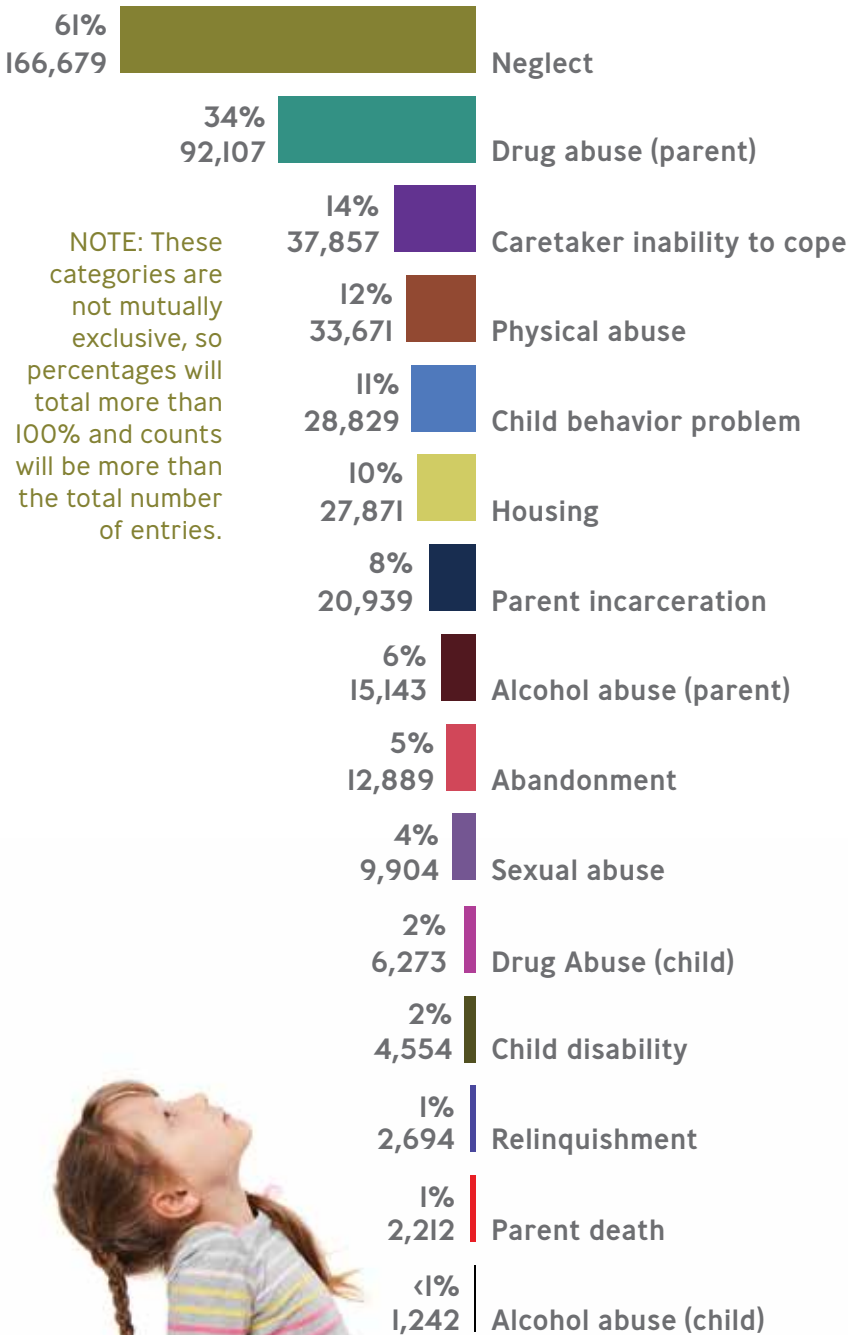
We learned that there are **far more kids and far fewer families** than we ever imagined. On the day of our information meeting in January 2017, Department of Social Services (DSS) social workers told us that, at close of business, they had more than 700 children in foster care just in Wake County. They had around 200 active foster families. Clearly, that ratio is nowhere close to where it needs to be. This was reinforced by the steady stream of children who were sent our way as soon as we were licensed. It only took three weeks before our first placement started. Our second happened ten days after the first ended. We had to say no to children because we were already full. The shortage of families is painfully obvious.

We learned that the **need for families able and willing to take sibling groups** was larger than we'd imagined. We knew that it was harder to place three kids than to place one, and harder still to place four or five. The reasons for that are obvious. But on at least two occasions, we have gotten calls about siblings who needed to be placed in a home that day and for whom we were the only option to keep them together. The agencies had no other families able or willing to take more than two children. Given the great trauma and loss that children in foster care have already experienced, the last thing most of them need is to be separated from

Percentage Adopted of Those Waiting for Adoption
Fiscal Year 2016



CIRCUMSTANCES ASSOCIATED WITH CHILD'S REMOVAL
Fiscal Year 2016



NOTE: These categories are not mutually exclusive, so percentages will total more than 100% and counts will be more than the total number of entries.

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/afcarsreport24.pdf>



their siblings, too. Of course, there are exceptions. On occasion, a sibling has become an abuser, or a child really needs some one-on-one care for other reasons. But usually, being together is important. It is estimated that around two-thirds of children in foster care also have at least one sibling in foster care.

Like all parenting, foster care has its ups and downs. Some days, our home has been filled with laughter and shrieks of delight. Other days, there have been sulking teenagers, toddler tantrums, and slamming doors. The difference, of course, is that the behavior in our home can be more extreme, the swings can be large and quick, and everyone knows that the situation is temporary. But most of the time, for most foster families and children, it's not all that different from any other parent-child relationship.

There are **tremendous resources available.** Foster kids have access to therapists, psychiatrists, tutors, and youth programs, all at no cost to foster parents. My husband and I have access to support groups and family therapy for ourselves. If foster parents are employed, the county provides childcare vouchers sufficient to cover the cost for those hours. The teachers in public schools we've worked with have bent over backwards to meet the unique needs of my kids. And even the "system," which can be frustrating and bureaucratic, really does try to support foster parents. If my family needs to travel, there are respite placements available, for example. During placements, I always get regular calls from several different social workers all asking if there's anything I need.

Foster parents have a lot of control. At the very beginning, we were able to specify what sorts of kids we did and didn't feel equipped to parent, and with no judgment. So if you only want girls, or only kids under 8, or only teenagers, or not more than one, or only short term placements, or only kids whose race is the same as yours, that's fine. If this month isn't convenient, you can always say no to a placement. All of that makes the whole process a lot less intimidating. Foster parents don't have to accept more than they can handle.

We've learned that **there are important protections in place for foster parents.** Depending on the specifics of the situation, kids in foster care may or may not have contact with their biological families. If it happens, that contact is monitored and facilitated by social workers and happens in the community. Unless you as a foster parent disclose where you live, the

biological family will never know. Social workers are careful only to use first names and not to give out phone numbers unless they think it's safe and you approve. Social workers do everything they can to protect foster families.

None of which means it's easy. Children enter foster care for all sorts of reasons. Sometimes it's a domestic violence call in the middle of the night that sees kids removed from an unsafe home. Sometimes it's parental drug or alcohol abuse. Sometimes it's a family living out of a car. Incarcerated parents, physical or sexual abuse, and neglect can all trigger removal of children from their homes. Whatever the reasons, kids who find themselves in foster care have experienced trauma and brokenness. They are often scared and hurting. They are in desperate need of love, security, and safety.

Kids who are dealing with all of that can act out, or they can shut down. They can be bubbly one minute and in tears the next.

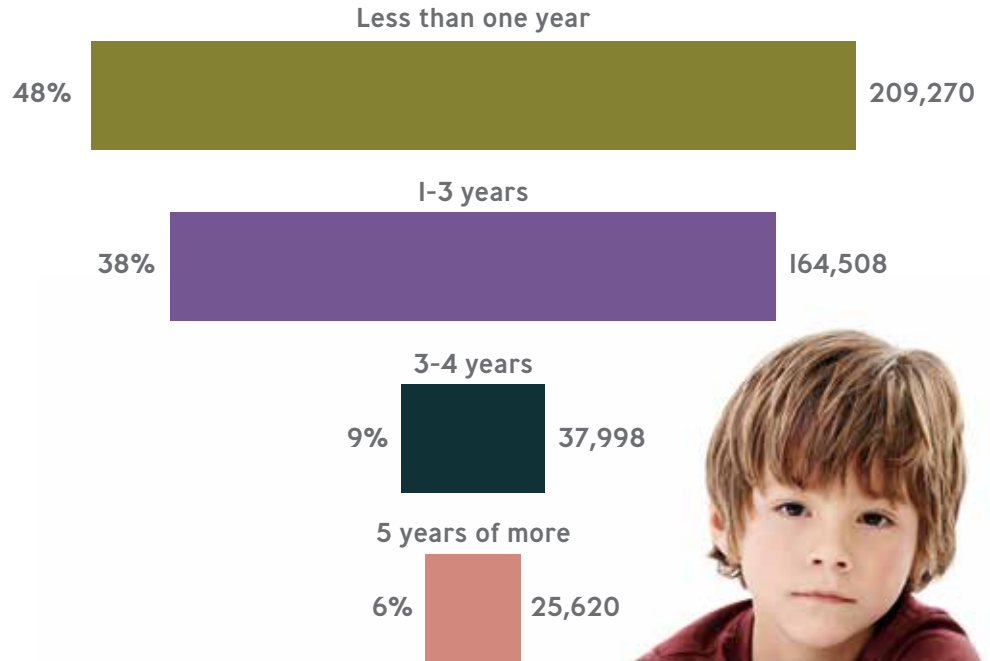
We've learned that, **more often than not, what we're seeing in our kids is fear.** They're scared of being rejected again or of having to move again or of someone hurting them again. It's difficult to deal with a kid who sometimes acts out against you when she's actually just scared.

We learned that we should have done this years ago. At the first information session we attended, hosted by DHHS, we heard about the **great need for single foster parents**, particularly single women. There is absolutely no requirement that foster parents be married. In fact, a number of children in the system have experienced abuse at the hands of men and therefore really need to be in homes where there is no man present. Sometimes the converse is true of boys who don't deal well with women. In 2016, almost 10,000 children in America entered foster care due to

In 2016, around 274,000 children entered foster care (5,800 just in North Carolina), while 250,000 exited (4,500 in North Carolina). A little over half of those who left foster care were reunited with their parents. Almost another quarter—56,500—were adopted, which sounds good until you hear that 118,000 were waiting to be adopted. More than 20,000 aged out. On average, these kids are in care between one and two years, though a significant number, 6 percent, spend five or more years in foster care.

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/afcarsreport24.pdf>

TIME IN CARE



sexual abuse. Many of these kids will be more likely to feel safe and be able to begin to heal in a single-gender home. This is also the case for some of the more than 33,000 children who entered foster care due to physical abuse, where that abuse was perpetrated primarily or exclusively by the men in a child's life, for example. This is not in any way to undermine the importance of fathers or two parent families. But for children who have experienced particular types of trauma, there may be different needs at play, at least initially. That had never occurred to me before. I wish I'd become a foster parent in the years before I was married.

There are three reasons why we do it and why you should consider it, too.

- First, there are few commands in Scripture that are more clearly or frequently repeated than to care for widows and orphans. That's what foster care is ultimately all about. Foster parents answer a call to take care of children who, for whatever reason, find themselves without parents who can do that job.
- Second, we love children because we recognize that we ourselves are orphans undeserving of love and who have been graciously brought into

a family, even despite our periodic protestations. We know that we've been loved faithfully and well by our heavenly Father when we often offer in return only anger and rejection.

- Third, there's a lot of joy in loving children. I've rocked a feverish baby all night long, praying he'd take fluids and that the fever would break. I've comforted a traumatized child through night terrors. I've dealt with tantrums and children telling me they hated me. But I've also laughed. I've been showered with kisses from beautiful, affectionate children. I've had meaningful conversations with kids wrestling with big life questions. And I have learned a lot about what love is. My life is richer for having these children in it.

Finally, I think it's worth noting that, while 450,000 kids in foster care sounds pretty daunting, it really needn't be. It's hard to nail down exactly, but the best estimates put the number of churches in America at somewhere around 384,000. If those numbers are accurate, then it means that every church just needs one foster family. Assuming some of those families were willing to take more than one child—sibling groups, for example—then just one foster family per church would eliminate the shortage.

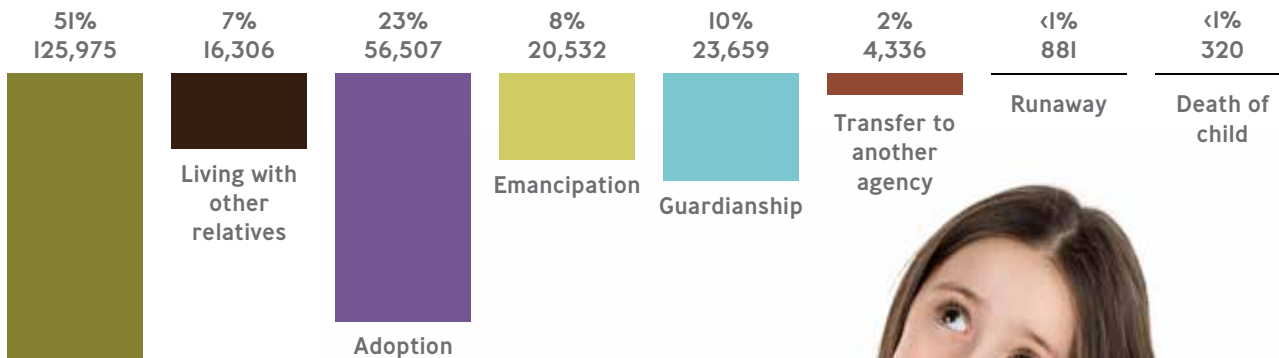
Which brings us to today. After a number of short-term placements over the past nine months—ranging from one week to three months, one child

to three, age 17 months to 16 years—we now have children in our home who we hope to adopt. We're getting to know them, figuring out how to parent adolescents, and trying to make sure every single day that they know how deeply they are wanted. We are overwhelmed, not so much by the task of parenting a large sibling group of older children who carry their various traumas, but by the richness of this blessing. Of course, there are hard days, but I am so very thankful for these children. I have prayed for them for years, from long before I knew their names, trusting that they were out there somewhere and would be brought to me at the right time. And now, it looks like maybe we're just about there. We are thankful for the great privilege of being their parents, for the joy they have already brought to our home in just a few short weeks, and for this miracle of foster care and adoption that takes broken pieces and makes families. 🏡

Julie Tisdale is a foster parent and freelance writer for the North Carolina Family Policy Council. She is a North Carolina native and graduate of Whitworth University and the University of Edinburgh. She has worked in public policy in North Carolina, India, and Scotland over the past 15 years.



REASONS FOR DISCHARGE FROM FOSTER CARE Fiscal Year 2016



<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/afcarsreport24.pdf>



Reunification with parents or primary caretakers

Get Informed This Election Season! Utilize NC Family's 2018 General Election Voter Guide

Our impartial and nonpartisan Voter Guide provides information to thousands of North Carolinians that simply cannot be found anywhere else! We have surveyed over 400 candidates running for: U.S. House of Representatives; North Carolina Supreme Court and Court of Appeals; and North Carolina Senate and House of Representatives.

Find out where candidates stand on:

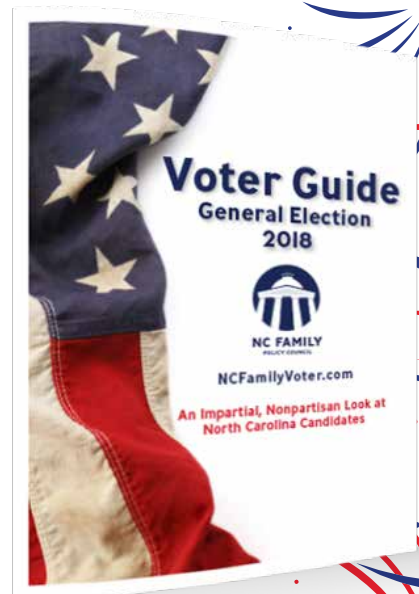
- Sanctity of Life**
- Religious Liberty**
- Educational Choice**
- Free Speech**
- Gambling**

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Order printed copies for distribution in your church, civic group, or neighborhood. We will ship you Voter Guides in bundles of 100. This is a tangible way you can engage in your community!

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Access our personalized Voter Guide website: NCFamilyVoter.com. On this easy to use and practical website, you can simply enter your name and address, and it will automatically produce a personalized version of our Voter Guide with your congressional and state legislative districts.



**Two great options to stay informed this election season!
Print version or online!**



OCTOBER

Friday, October 12
Voter Registration Deadline

Wednesday, October 17
One Stop Early Voting Begins

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

NOVEMBER

Saturday, November 3
One Stop Early Voting Ends

Tuesday, November 6
Election Day

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

On the Air With ... Nancy Pearcey, a renowned Christian apologist and professor in residence at Houston Baptist University



John Rustin: Young people these days, Nancy, seem to have an innate appreciation for justice and compassion, which is great. But you warn that today's secularism can really destroy the basis for true compassion and true human rights. How do we balance the quest for justice and compassion without inadvertently tearing down or undermining the fundamental rights and dignity that we all should experience as members of the human race?

Nancy Pearcey: You cannot have human rights unless you have an adequate view of human nature. [...] I quote an internationally best-selling book called, *Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind*, and [the author, Yuval Noah Harari] basically argues that if you're an Atheist, if you're an Evolutionist, you do not have a basis for human rights. [...] For example in the Declaration of Independence, we Americans say that human rights are endowed by the Creator and that all humans are created equal. Well, in this internationally best-selling book he says, that's not true.[...] And of course in a materialist worldview, there's no Creator to endow humans with rights. There's only, as this book puts it, "A blind evolutionary process devoid of any

purpose." And so phrase-by-phrase, this book dismantles the claims in the Declaration of Independence. It says that humans are merely biological organisms driven by the instinct to seek pleasure, and that the concept of equal rights is nothing but a Christian myth. So we have to realize that when ideas like this permeate down through the public mind, human rights will increasingly be seen as nothing but a Christian myth; and then, of course, who is going to bother to protect them. So politics is downstream from culture. To be effective, we really cannot avoid the larger philosophical question: "What does it mean to be human?" Do we have an adequate concept of human nature to guarantee human rights?

Radio Stations Airing Family Policy Matters

Bennett/Asheboro	WYTR 88.1 FM	Saturday, 2:00 PM
Charlotte	WHVN 1240 AM WOGF 88.3 FM	Sunday, 11:30 AM Saturday, 3:45 PM
Charlotte/Harrisburg	WGAS 1420 AM	Saturday, 3:45 PM
Fayetteville	WCLN 107.3 FM	Saturday, 7:00 AM
Forest City	WWOL 780 AM	Wednesday, 8:45 AM
Greensboro/ Winston-Salem	WKEW 1400 AM WTRU 830 AM	Sunday, 9:30 AM Saturday, 6:00 AM
New Bern	WSTK 104.5 FM	Saturday, 3:15 PM
Newland	WECR 1130 AM	Saturday, 9:06 AM
Raleigh	WTRU 1030 AM	Saturday, 6:30 AM
Rocky Mount	WLQC 103.1 FM	Sunday, 11:00 PM
Salisbury	WOGF 93.3 FM	Saturday, 12:15 PM
Sanford	WLHC 103.1 FM	Sunday, 11:00 PM
Shallotte	WVCB 1410 AM	Wednesday, 10:05 AM Saturday, 4:30 PM
Taylorsville	WACB 860 AM	Wednesday, 5:00 PM
Troy	WJRM 1390 AM	Sunday, 7:30 AM
Wilmington	WZDG 88.5 FM	Sunday, 5:30 AM Sunday, 6:00 PM
Winston-Salem	WBFJ 1550 AM WPOL 1340 AM WPIP 880 AM	Sunday, 4:10 PM Sunday, 9:30 AM Sunday, 5:00 PM

Family Policy Matters is also available at ncfamily.org and as a podcast!



Family Policy Matters is now available as a podcast on your favorite podcast app! Search for "NC Family's Family Policy Matters."



... Dr. Thomas Lickona, a developmental psychologist and professor of education at the State University of New York at Cortland

John Rustin: In your book, *How to Raise Kind Kids and Get Respect, Gratitude, and a Happier Family in the Bargain*, you say that there are ten virtues that are essential to creating a positive family environment and fostering kindness and respect in children. What are some of those?

Tom Lickona: The very first virtue, which is actually sometimes overlooked, is “wisdom”—plain old good judgment. The Greeks actually consider it the master virtue because it guides the application of all the others. It tells us how to be kind, how to exert self-control, how to be fair in any given situation. So, we want to encourage our children to take the time to think—What’s the best decision here? Is this right or is this wrong what my friends are doing?—to really stop and think and pull upon their values and best resources. The second great virtue is “justice.” Justice is treating all people with respect for their inherent dignity, their rights, their worth as a person. It extends to respect for animals, for the natural environment that is necessary to sustain all life. And we need to teach our kids that there are really two kinds of “injustice.” There’s harming another person, actually hurting somebody, but there’s also failing to protect another person from injury, from injustice. So, we have an obligation to avoid hurting, but also extend help when somebody else is a victim of bullying, for example, in the schoolyard, or any kind of unkindness or injustice. The third great virtue is “fortitude.” That includes lots of sub-virtues. It’s the strength of character that enables us to do what’s right when it’s hard to do so. So perseverance, determination, resilience—all those are part—courage, moral courage, physical courage, all those are part of the virtue of fortitude. [...] You need fortitude to deal with all the challenges and tests of life.



Family Policy Matters is a 15-minute weekly radio show and podcast featuring interviews with national, state, and local experts on a wide range of policy issues important to North Carolina families. *Family Policy Matters* airs each week on over 20 radio stations across North Carolina. You can listen and access a full transcript on the NC Family website at ncfamily.org. *Family Policy Matters* is also available on your favorite podcast app!



... Catherine Fowler Sample, writer and producer of the award-winning documentary, “The Dating Project.”



John Rustin: Speaking about dating, I know online dating is becoming more and more common these days. What advice would you offer to those who want to have both a positive and potentially successful experience in the online dating world?

Catherine Fowler Sample: Online dating is now something that’s just a common part of the 21st century dating landscape. I think, especially among Millennials, it’s not really so stigmatized anymore even with the apps and all of that. So it’s like, you can use it well, it just needs to be done wisely. I always say that people should have healthy parameters, and one of those is to take it offline, and recognize you are not supposed to be pen pals. Meet in a safe place, that’s kind of the point of online dating. People are going to meet online because a lot of times they know that people who are there are interested in actually dating. Ironically enough, it’s one of the places that provides that area of a social script, like “Okay, we know that we’re here, interested to date.” Obviously that doesn’t happen in every case. Some apps have more of a hook-up connotation, but it’s an opportunity to meet people that you normally wouldn’t, and just having those realistic expectations, not putting so much pressure on it like it has to work, but it can be a good thing. There was actually a study done by Stanford University recently that said those who are meeting online are actually moving towards marriage faster than people who aren’t. That may be part of that thing that I was talking about, that people know that they are there because they are interested and looking for a meaningful and committed relationship. So, it can be another avenue to meet someone in this day and age.

**“Pregnancy isn’t a sickness.
Abortion isn’t a cure.”**

—Jess McCain, former cast member of
MTV’s Real World: Portland

**Almost three times as many children
nationwide come into foster care
because of parental drug use as do
because of physical abuse.**

—“NC’s Opioid Epidemic Has Thousands Of Victims That
Almost No One Is Talking About” from NCFamily.org

**We stored our leftover
narcotics in a kitchen
cabinet “right next to the
Advil, brown sugar and
cake sprinkles.”**

—Jim Moser, whose son died
from an opioid overdose, as
reported in *Citizen* magazine

**“The Human Rights
Campaign is attempting to
poach evangelicals. They
are asking evangelicals
to turn their backs to
Scripture, church history,
and reason.”**

—Andrew T. Walker on HRC’s
effort to convince Christians that
there is no conflict between the
Bible and LGBT lifestyles

**“The man in the clinic was not a
donor. He is, or was, my father, but by
cooperating with my artificial conception,
he deprived me forever of the possibility
of knowing him.[...] I do not know my
paternal grandparents, my aunts and
uncles, my cousins.”**

—Elizabeth Howard on her birth by artificial
insemination (thembeforeus.com)

**“Ideas have consequences. One’s
beliefs about central issues shape
his worldview and dictate his
course of action.”**

– Garland S. Tucker III, *Conservative Heroes*



Modern-Day Heroes

We—NC Family and you—are part of an incredibly vibrant and powerful national alliance made up of 40 state-based Family Policy Councils (FPCs) and a host of national allies stretching across this nation and ultimately impacting the world for Christ!

Recently, I had the pleasure and privilege of attending our annual FPC conference, which was co-hosted by Family Policy Alliance and Focus on the Family at the beautiful WinShape Retreat in Mt. Berry, Georgia. Spending several days with FPC colleagues from Alaska to Hawaii to Maine to Florida and all points in between, reaffirmed once again for me that we serve an incredible God and that He has placed an amazing group of warriors, prophets, and humble servants to lead our efforts to bring the life-saving and Truth-affirming message and principles of Jesus Christ into the public policy arena of our states, nation and world. These FPC leaders truly are modern-day heroes.

Anyone who believes that God has either removed His hand of grace and mercy from our nation or that He has no interest in the affairs of mankind, is sorely mistaken. As we discussed the value of human life, religious liberty, human sexuality, and the inherent dignity of all people, it again became abundantly clear that true life—the abundant life described in the Scriptures—can only be found in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and a complete surrender to His Truth and lordship in our lives. Anything short of this inevitably results in chaos and calamity.

Accordingly, as we elect leaders who honor Biblical principles and who enact these principles into law and policy, we are better able to live the “peaceful and quiet lives” spoken about in 1 Timothy, Chapter 2. This is as true in North Carolina as it is in Delaware, Washington, Minnesota and New York. It is as true in the United States of America as it is in Zimbabwe, Egypt, Hungary and China. God’s Truth is never changing and eternal, and it applies to every human being on the face of the planet.

This is what our Family Policy Alliance is all about, and this is why we are so pleased and honored that you are a partner with us in this work. As we seek to influence North Carolina for Christ, and our colleagues do the same in their respective states, I pray and believe with my whole heart that God will be glorified, and that He will honor our efforts and bless our states, our nation and our world.

Blessings,

John L. Rustin 

*John L. Rustin is President
of the North Carolina
Family Policy Council.*



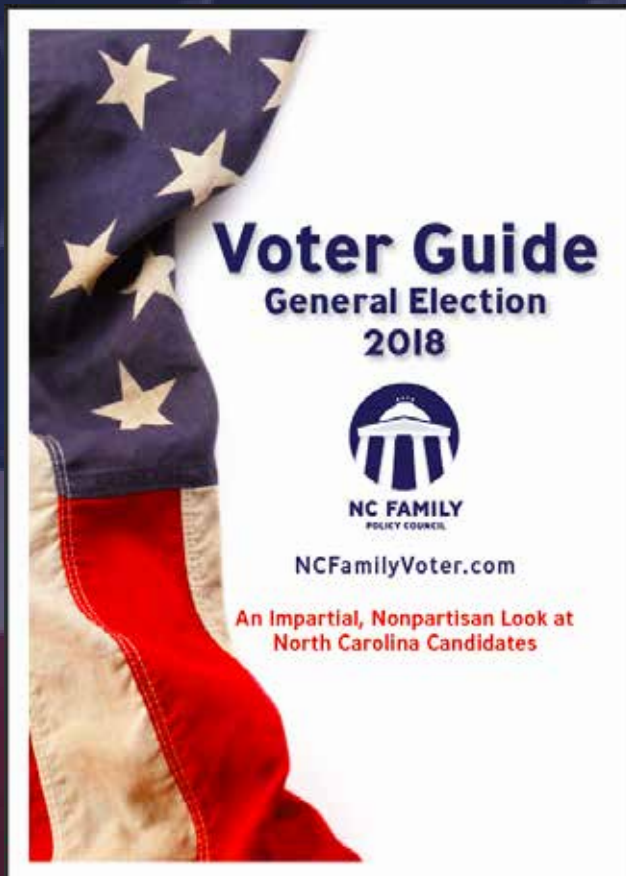
NC Family is part of a national alliance of Family Policy Councils. Pictured are leaders of Family Policy Alliance and Family Policy Councils from across the country: Hawaii to Maine to Washington to Florida and all points in between.



North Carolina Family Policy Council
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