



Your Hometown

Volume 42

"HEARTS OF COMPASSION"

WINTER 2026

Richmond County Hospice, Hospice Haven & Anson Community Hospice



Meet Our Hospice Family

HOSPICE AIDES

Tammy Bull, NA II, CHPNA
Hospice Aide Coordinator

Teresa Graham, NA II
Esmeralda Rodriguez, NA I
Annalisa Thompson, NA I
Sybil Oxendine, NA I
Erica Armstrong, NA I
Regina Smith, NA I
Myrtle Paul, NA I
Autumn King, NA I
Megan Furr, NA I
Lathisa Davis, NA I
Maria Rivas, NA I
Jasmine Pegues, NA I

PATIENT CARE TECHNICIANS

Audrey Martin, NA I
Bernice Thompson, NA I
Angela McDonald, NA I
Geraldine Leak, NA I
Frances Lampley, NA I
Peyton G. McCormick, NA I

HEMOCARE PRIMARY NURSES

Lisa Wood, RN, CHPN
Home Care Team Coordinator
Hayley Plyler, RN, BSN
Lori Jenkins, RN
Christine Strickler, RN
Miranda Watson, RN
Natalie Barbour, BSW, RN, BSN
Amanda Leviner, RN

INPATIENT NURSES

Karen Geiger, RN, MSN, CHPN
Teresa Balzer, RN, BSN, CHPN
Kathleen Camp, RN, CHPN
Barbara Potter, RN
Corinne Swink, RN
Martha Aaron, RN
Shonda Crump, LPN

ON CALL NURSES

Tammy Benoist, RN
Audrey Norton, RN
Karen Stogner, RN
Fretia Flinchum, LPN

PRN NURSES

Teri McDonald, LPN
Bonnie Entwistle, RN, BSN
Patricia Wheeler, RN
Seth Dixon, RN
Sherlyn Jimenez, RN
Keena Green, RN/PRN
Martha Aaron, RN/PRN

COMPLIANCE & OUTREACH

Heather Monroe, RN, HCC
Compliance Coordinator
Lisa Luckey
Volunteer & Outreach Coordinator
Linda Russell, AAS
Volunteer & Outreach Assistant

FAMILY SERVICES

Mary Martha Warnock, BSW
Social Worker
Shannon Huff, BA, Social Worker
Marla Barbee, BA, Social Worker
Nia Jones, BSW
Bereavement Social Worker
Breanna Allen, MSW
Bereavement Clinical Social Worker
Stephanie Thornton, BA
Inpatient Care Coordinator/Social Worker
Paula Daigle, BA/CPE, Chaplain
Kenneth Lyrly, MDIV. Chaplain

MEDICAL STAFF

Susan McDonald, FNP
Van Slaughter, MD
Julie Verchick, MD

SUPPORT STAFF

Lisa O'Neal, AAS, Clinical Office Coordinator
Jane Burnette, Billing/Account Specialist
Kelly Williams, Receptionist/Secretary
Nic Wilkes, Creativity Coordinator
Buddy Edwards, Maintenance Technician
Rosa English-PRN Sitter/Housekeeper
Vladimir Tushin, Housekeeping
Laura Rubio/Hospitality Aide

LEADERSHIP

Kristina Leyden, MSW, LCSW, HCC
Chief Executive Officer

Steven Strobel, MD
Chief Medical Officer

Julie Woody, RN, CHPN
Director of Public Relations

Marvin Taylor, BS
Director of Finances

Arturo De Aguilar, MA, MDIV.
Director of Human Resources

Jessica Mims, BSW, CHP-SW
Director of Family Services

Jenny Mabe, RN, CHPN, HQC
Director of Nursing (Home Care)

Hollie Smith, RN, CHPN, HQC
Director of Inpatient Care

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All of our volunteers who are
part of our Richmond County
Hospice Family.

Their gift of time and dedication
makes our organization the best
“Home Town Hospice” around!





Candy Cavalcade 2025



A great time was had by everyone in attendance for our Candy Cavalcade trunk or treat event on October 23rd! There was a great turn out especially with several other things going on in the county that night, so we were honored you decided to make us part of your evening. It was reported to us that one "trunk" had prepared 800 bags and ran out of those and had to start passing out other items/candy.

Thank you so much to everyone who set up trunks and gave out candy:

- | | |
|---|---|
| * Danielle Garth | * Tina Miller State Farm Insurance Agent |
| * Bostick BP, Towing and Emergency Spill Response | * Cricket Wireless of Rockingham |
| * Richmond County Aging Services | * The Rock N Roll |
| * LPZ Flooring LLC | * Richmond County Sheriff's Office - N.C. |
| * Daymark | * Farmers Home Furniture |
| * Watson-King Funeral Homes | * Cindy Miller |
| * Dr. Kennedy Henry | * Cascades of Rockingham |
| * Susan Cornelius and Aimee Eason | * Corinne Swink |
| * Carolina Hearts Home Care | * Paula Daigle and Marla Barbee |
| * Freedom Baptist Church | * Jonathan Glaze |
| * Harrington Funeral Home & Crematory | * Julie Woody and Carole Venable |

The trunks this year were amazing and many really stepped their game up after the huge pirate mast and television made their appearance last year with Daymark! This year we had a DJ skeleton, a carnival, Shrek, Cookie Monster, Scarecrows, Astronauts, Candyland, a giant spider, and of course the holding cell that all the children had to get their picture made in— we even heard that Sheriff Woody was in lock up there for a little bit, not sure if Buzz was able to come to his rescue or if he got out for good behavior.

Visitors each got a ticket to vote for their favorite trunks and those top choices went to:

1st Place- The Rock N Roll with their DJ skeleton

2nd Place- Carolina Hearts Home Care with their carnival theme

3rd Place- Bostick BP, Towing and Emergency Spill Response with Cookie Monster

Mark your calendars now for next year. We can't wait to see what everyone comes up with
Candy Cavalcade 2026 will be on **Thursday, October 22nd!**









SALUTE TO VETERANS

“Our debt to the heroic men and valiant women in the service of our country can never be repaid. They have earned our undying gratitude. America will never forget their sacrifices.” — Harry Truman

On November 7th, Richmond County Hospice, Inc held our 14th Annual Salute to Veterans event. This ceremony is our way of showing appreciation to the veterans of this community. We could not have requested more perfect weather than what we were blessed with for the event. Guests were able to look at a variety of vehicles that were on display from the NC Forestry Service, Richmond County Sheriff's Office, Swift Transportation, Billy Dunn, and Terry Jordan. Informational booths were setup by Carolina Hearts Home Care, State Archives of North Carolina, and Richmond County Partnership for Children. Complimentary coffee was provided by Nana's Coffee Rocks and the Richmond Senior High School Career and Technical Education Classes donated a handcrafted wooden American flag that was given to the oldest veteran in attendance

The ceremony started with those in attendance being welcomed by Jessica Mims, Director of Family Services and Lisa O'Neal, Clinical Office Coordinator. Other program highlights included: Posting of Colors by the Richmond County Sheriff's Office - N.C. Honor Guard. • National Anthem sung by SGM Peter A. Leyden, Jr. Retired • Invocation by Paula Daigle, Richmond County Hospice Chaplain • Guest Speaker Dr. Michael McCawley, Army Chaplain, Retired • “Ragged Old Flag” Recitation by John Taylor • Special Remarks from Congressman Mark Harris • Missing Man Table- AMVETS Post 316 • K-9 Demonstration by Richmond County Sheriff's Office • Recognition of Sponsors by Jessica Mims • 21-gun salute/TAPs by Richmond County Sheriff's Office Honor Guard • Dove Release from Heavenly Doves • and Closing prayer by Rev. Bill Monroe, AMVETS Chaplain

Following the program there was a catered lunch from Chasing Sunshine Catering, sponsored by Watson-King Funeral Homes and Richmond County Memorial Park.

This year's event was made possible by Richmond County Hospice and the following generous sponsors

- Watson King Funeral Homes
- Richmond County Memorial Park
- Great Falls Wealth Management, LLC
- Mabry's Drug and Home Care
- REV Federal Credit Union
- Wise Hospice Options
- Cascades
- Epsilon, Inc.
- Armando's Mexican American Grill
- Everything Pines Partners - Richmond County Real Estate

In addition, the following in-kind sponsors also provided support.

- AMVETS Post 316
- Jamie & Missi Boone
- Carolina Hearts Home Care
- Billy Dunn
- Heavenly Doves, Walter Smith
- Dr. Micheal McCawley, Navy Chaplain, Retired
- James Mims Photography



- SGM Peter A. Leyden, Jr. Retired
- Nana's Coffee Rocks
- NC Forestry Service
- Office of Congressman, Markk Harris
- Outreach For Jesus of Hamlet
- Richmond County Memorial Park
- Richmond County Partnership for Children
- Richmond County Sheriff's Office - N.C.
- Richmond Senior High School Career & Technical Education Department
- Richmond Senior High School JROTC Cadets
- Robin Roberts, County Commissioner
- Schneider "Ride of Pride"
- State Archives of North Carolina
- Swift Transportation
- Terry Jordan
- John Taylor
- VFW Post 4203-Rockingham



Last but certainly not least, we appreciate the hard work and dedication of our planning committee and the many volunteers who helped to make this another successful Salute to Veterans event.

Hosting this special day of recognition each year for our veterans is an honor for Richmond County Hospice staff and volunteers and we are extremely grateful for the support of our sponsors to continue to help make this day possible!

May we always remember as Ronald Reagan said "Our liberties, our values, all for which America stands is safe today because brave men and women have been ready to face the fire at freedom's front. And we thank God for them."















LIGHT OF LIFE

On Thursday, November 13, 2025, Richmond County Hospice hosted its bi-annual Light of Life Memorial Service.

This meaningful event offered a dedicated time of reflection and remembrance for individuals and families who are continuing their grief journey after the loss of a loved one. The ceremony provides a compassionate space for family members, friends, and members of our hospice team to gather in shared remembrance and honor the lives of those who have passed.

The service was held at First Baptist Church of Hamlet, NC. Attendees received a message of comfort delivered by Pastor Dr. Allison Farrah, and special music was offered by the First Baptist Church Choir. The ceremony also featured the lighting of a Unity Candle by hospice staff, followed by the lighting of congregational candles as each loved one's name was read aloud. Following the service, families were invited to share in a time of fellowship over a meal provided by Smokin' Ain't Eazy BBQ and Catering. We are grateful to all who attended and joined us in honoring the cherished memories of their loved ones.







Hamlet Parade of Lights 2025

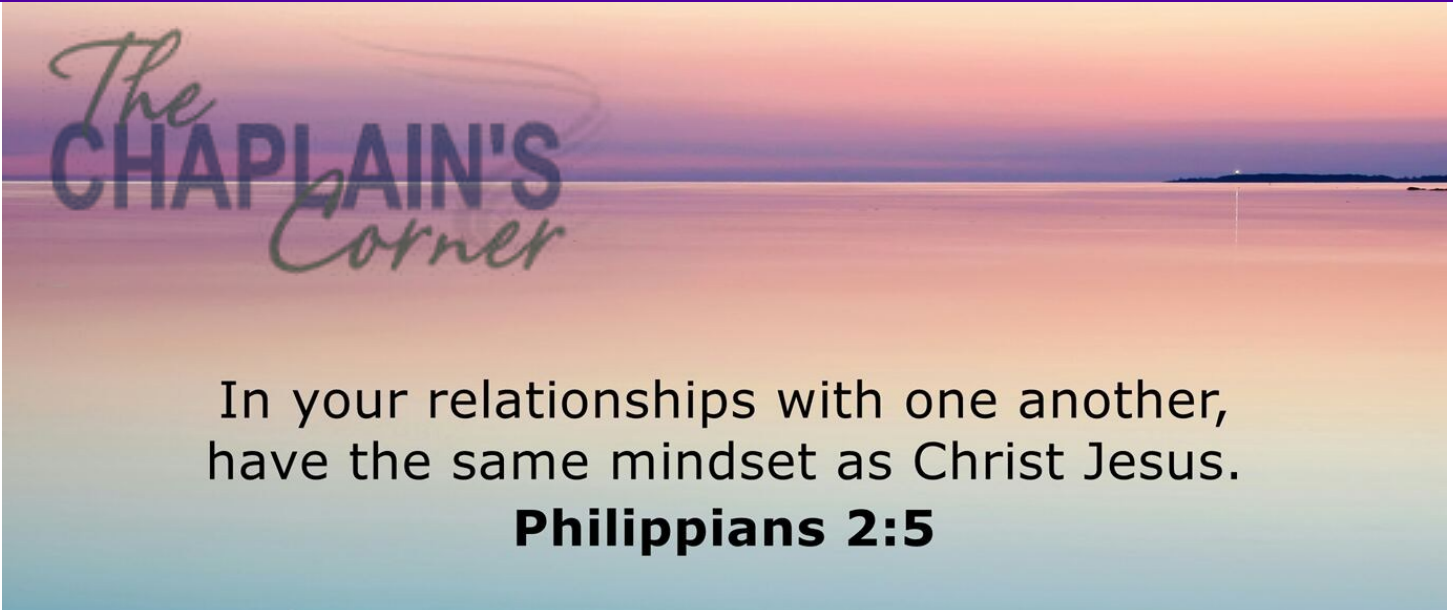
Several of our staff members and volunteers had another fun evening getting ready for and participating in the Parade of Lights in Hamlet!

This year we partnered with Duffies Decor & Design to bring some fairy tale princes and princesses to Richmond County and we really enjoyed hearing many of the children calling out to them as we passed by!

We would also like to extend a HUGE thank you to First Baptist Church of Hamlet for allowing us to set up and get ready in their parking lot and fellowship hall! Your hospitality was amazing, and we truly appreciated the use of your space!







The CHAPLAIN'S Corner

In your relationships with one another,
have the same mindset as Christ Jesus.

Philippians 2:5

Philippians 2:5-7: "Have this mind among yourselves which is yours in Christ Jesus, who though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men."

In the letter to the Philippians, Paul writes that Christ is a prime example of love through his self-emptying, taking the form of a slave. How can we as believers in Christ manifest love? Matthew 5, The Sermon on the Mount, contains the wisdom of love for the ages. We are to be perfect as our heavenly Father is perfect. We read what seems to be a radical call to love. We are asked to be meek, merciful, pure in heart, and peacemakers. In the same book of Matthew, we are called to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, and mind. We are called to love others as we love ourselves. This rhetoric is nigh unto impossible.

Yet, as we are made in Christ's image, we are also made by our nature to love. Love is in fact the ultimate expression of our faith as Christians. 1 Corinthians 13 defines agape love. That is defined as self-sacrificing love. We tend to think of this passage as describing two people embarking on a journey of marital bliss. But, in fact, Paul is speaking to a group of believers who are torn apart by their differing beliefs. And, in response, Paul is asking them to act out of love alone. He breaks love down into the qualities of patience and kindness. He even identifies what love is not to make it more understandable. Love is not envious, not boastful. It is not irritable or resentful or insistent on getting its own way.

I guarantee in 2026, you will be challenged to exhibit that love. You will run into the driver who gives you the middle finger for not turning on that yellow. You will be brushed off by that friend or family member who is so involved in their own pain, they won't be able to return your love. You will experience a complete lack of gratitude for your sacrificial gift of time or presence. And all at the same time, you will experience the true love of Christ which is ever present.

In his book, "The Way of Surrender", Vic Clesceri describes our spiritual development as dependent upon our surrender to God. "Every virtue, every prayer, every act of love rests on the knowledge that God's providence is always at work." So, today, I challenge you to surrender to God. I challenge you to love like Christ. I challenge you to turn the world on its head by returning only pure love, meekness, mercy, and peace. I borrow some words of wisdom from Paul Avellino. "If you've ever loved something, you know the difference between using it and caring for it. When you love something, you learn it's rhythms. You protect what's fragile." Elie Wiesel, who experienced and wrote about the terrors he experienced during the holocaust spoke of the opposite of love as indifference.

In 2026, keep your eyes fixed on Christ. Just as God is with us, God is with you. Let's embrace the difficult to love, the difficult to tolerate, and in some cases the difficult to even see. Let's work on our indifference. Let's work on our tolerance. Let's protect what is fragile. Let's empty ourselves and fill our hearts, mind, and lives with the love of Christ. Let's love even as Christ loved us in this upcoming year.



FAITH FELLOWSHIP

We appreciate all of those who were able to come out yesterday for our Faith Fellowship gathering. A special thank you to Kenneth Lyerly who brought a special message to all of us about blessings and to Arturo DeAguilar who talked with the group about a prayer ritual that is carried out in Mexico.

We missed those of you who were unable to attend, but hope you will be able to join us next year. We are changing the day of the week to Tuesdays this year in hopes that it will be a better day for many, so go ahead and mark your calendars now for Tuesday, April 28th at 10am! We hope to see you then!

