

0 Years
Ago

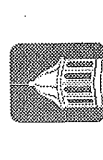
July 1985 issues of the
High School Class of
their 25th reunion at
nsville Ribeye.
of the 25 who graduat-
ed the fete. Ironically
25 graduates and all
ing as well as their

aturday, July, 1985
States Co-Op Todd
ad a very successful dog
ay. A total of 46 dogs
ed. The F.H.A.C. ladies
t dogs, potato chips, and
s. Ladies who helped
y Thornhill, Teresa
, and Dortha Wiles.
egre Fire Department's
ual B.B.Q. got off to a
Saturday afternoon with
ivities for everyone. The
which is held annually to
ey for the department's
ffered activities such as
ke toss, horse shoe tour-
nd Go-Kart rides. A total
was raised this year for
ment, with a good num-
ple turning out.
-ent meeting of the Todd
chool Board Charles
was selected to fill the
principal position while
las is the new athletic

I Mrs. Vernon Glenn of
Tenn., visited his parents,
Mrs. Connie Spurlin over
h of July holidays
es, Elkon, and James
n of Allensville discussing
posals with Wayne Cryts,
eaker Monday night for
meeting. Showing inter-
(left to right) Lyle Keeton,
Wayne Hurt, Herndon,
ber, Allensville; John
nipp Implement,
e and David Barbee,

sponsored as a
public service

— by —



USB
UNITED SOUTHERN
BANK

lifty • 277-6223
insville • 885-0056
nton • 466-5695
kton • 265-3096

idd County

Standard

(USPS 632-580)
ESTABLISHED 1893
270-265-2439
or 265-2571 (fax)

odd County Standard won
Excellence for 2006, 2007
2009, 2010, 2011 and
in the Kentucky Press
ion's editorial contest; and
7, 2008, 2009, 2010,
d 2013 in the KPA's adver-
ntest.

Todd County Standard
332-580) is published each
ay at 41 Public Square,

In my distress I called to the
Lord; I cried to my God for help.
From his temple he heard my
voice; my cry came before him,
into his ears.

Psalm 18:6

His plan had been in place for
about six months. He was going
to kill people. He was going to
people in the name of hate and in
hate he would bring his cause to
the forefront.

Dylan Storm Roof did just that
when he shot people in worship.
He brought his cause — racism,
hate for the sake of skin and a cry
for those to rally around him to
start a race war — along with a
gun he had in a fanny pack
around his waist as he walked into
the Emanuel AMC Church in
Charleston, S.C., on a
Wednesday night, a night of Bible
study.

He sat for nearly an hour,
became upset at some of the
Scriptures the group discussed,
then he stood up, spat some racial
epithets and started shooting the
people in the House of God.

Roof reloaded his gun an esti-
mated five times and shot at close
range multiple times. Death, it
seemed, was not enough. He had
to throw as many bullets as he
could into those he sought to
destroy, as if the shots would
reverberate in the rafters and
wanted so desperately.

There were 13 souls in that
room. Nine of the worshippers —
six women, three men all African-
American — lay dead or dying.
Three survived, two (an elderly
woman and a child) because they
played dead; another was kept
alive by Roof so she could tell
what he did once he had commit-
ted suicide as planned.

The last soul in that church
basement was Dylan Storm Roof.
He had heard the word. He had
heard of forgiveness. Roof, after
he was caught (his promise of sui-
cide unfulfilled), told investigators
he hesitated to bring darkness
into the room when he thought
about how nice those in the Bible
study had been to him.

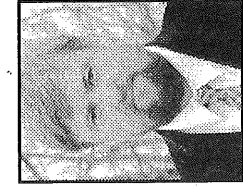
He hesitated.
Whether or not you have faith
like that of those who were in that
Bible study, you have to wonder
why a man so filled with hate —
who is alleged to have said during
his rampage, "I have to do it. You
rape our women and you're tak-
ing over our country. And you
have to go," and then, "Y'all want
something to pray about? I'll give
you something to pray about." —
why that man would have ever
hesitated at all.

But, to God, to the nation that
retched at his crime, to those he
sought to rally, Roof brought not
fear, a river of hate and the anni-
hilation of those with dark skin —
he, instead, brought change.

Roof, filled with his ideas that
should see no resurrection in this
or any future century, may have
also killed some of the last rem-
nants of the old South. He might

RYAN
CRAIG

Home Cookin'



off everyone he loved or ever
loved him and he was in the room
to end his life. He saw a Gideon
Bible, picked it up, read some of
the words about love and forgive-
ness and did what the Bible said.
He now speaks to others about
the words.

You can be the staunchest
Baptist, Methodist or Catholic on
the planet; you can believe in
Buddha, Muhammad, or the
ghosts in the trees; you can
believe in nothing — that we are a
cosmic accident with evolutionary
malfunctions that make us have
faith in something that can't be
seen; but, sometimes just by being
presented with the love inside
someone can cause all sort of
change.

That, to me anyway, is what is
truly in the balance in the
moments when the path to faith
presents itself while darkness
blankets the landscape.
I grow tired of those who would
say we should go against our pro-
gramming and seek no religion,
be no person of faith, because it
makes no sense to believe in fairy
tales, old folklore or ancient
superstitions.

I know that love, past what we
can all carry, was in the room
with Dylan Roof the night he shot
believers. I know they had to be
so afraid when evil came, but I
also know those who died in that
room did not deceive themselves
and showed kindness to the
strange man in their midst even as
he struggled with if he was to
murder them all.

Just today I read an article
about a scientist (albeit one who
was trying to sell books) who
came out and said it was foolish to
believe in God. It was foolish for
people to respect "a person of
faith" since when it comes to sci-
ence and the natural world faith is
the "failure of religion to find out
the truth about anything."

The scientist, who makes good
points about people who let chil-
dren die because their "religion"
doesn't allow them to have cancer
treated or politicians who grasp
the Bible and say global warming
is a "hoax," does not get the real
point of faith.
(Another column for another
time is the dumbing-down of
America to the point where we
believe ill-educated pundits over
scientists just because many of
faith can't grasp an idea or finding
which might test their faith.)

The scientist shouldn't believe
in faith since he thinks the idea of
God is foolish, but even after
reading about the scientist's argu-
ment I asked myself, why did
Dylan Roof hesitate?
Was it just the stimuli of kind-
ness causing his brain to feel sym-
pathy for people he was supposed
to hate? Was it just a chemical
reaction in his brain? Perhaps.
Perhaps not.

Like the scripture says, faith,
and the reasons that so many of
the world still believe in a creator
while shaking our fists at the cos-
mos and rail against the idea that
Do not merely listen to the
word, and so deceive yourselves.
Do what it says.

As a young man I would some-
times attend the annual banquet
of the Todd County Gideons would
hold. My Dad is a Gideon, a great
public speaker, who often would
tell me stories about how Gideon
Bibles put in the right hands or
placed in the right spot have
saved lives.

Often the Gideon banquets
were held in the fellowship hall of
Petrie Memorial UMC and a cou-
ple of times they would ask me to
sing so I would have to sit through
the entire program instead of
sneaking outside and playing.
Like most kids, I tried to not be
bored with the keynote speaker,
so I attempted to listen and I'm
glad I did. Each speaker, in differ-
ent ways, showed how that just by
one opening up to the possibility
of the word, then lives could be
changed.

There was one speaker who
was a criminal of the highest
order — attempted murder, drugs,
and organized crime through
biker gangs — and a Bible passed
to him in prison changed his
heart. He did what it said to do
and brought love inside him and,
now released from prison, he
goes back inside to minister to
those who were once like him.
Another speaker at a later ban-
quet told how he had gone to a
hotel room and was preparing to
attempt suicide. His life was in
shambles. Because of alcohol and
drug addiction he had lost or ran

James 1:22

She was feeble from a recent
surgery. This woman of faith, pre-
sented with her husband being
beaten to death, did the thing a
woman of faith does — she start-
ed to sing hymns and she started
to pray.

While I don't know this for
sure, I have to think there had to
be a moment of hesitation inside
her attacker or attackers. I have to
think, I need to think, that the
first thing that raced through the
murderous assailant's mind would
not be to strike her as hard as
God's help.

Maybe, especially, the attacker
hit her because she asked for
God's help. Still, my mind comes
back to what it takes to hit an eld-
erly man until he dies, what it
takes to hit an elderly woman until
her face needs reconstructive sur-
gery.

Even after the first, second,
third or further kicks and or
punches or strikes, was there a
moment of hesitation? Or was the
plan to leave both of the good
people to die?

As the scripture says, we
should all be alert at all times, and
to hope (and pray, if you are so
inclined) to have the strength to
escape the horrible things taking
place.

Because while there are mira-
cles out there — like, the Gideon
speakers — there are also many,
many more in this old world that
have hesitation, see the evil in
their actions, and decide to jump,
headfirst with eyes open wide,
into the darkness.

As the scripture says, "When
justice is done, it brings joy to the
righteous but terror to evildoers."
May the terror for evildoers like
Dylan Roof and those who would
murder a 79-year-old man and
nearly beat his wife to death, first
and foremost, be the realization
that, at some point, they had a
moment of hesitation for a reason.
And they should have listened.

Be alert at all times, praying
that you may have the strength to
escape all these things that will
take place, and to stand before
the Son of Man.

—
Luke 21:36 (NRSV)

I've been covering crime for
nearly two decades. I've seen
enough death, enough autopsy
photos and enough heartache to
know a truly heinous crime when
I'm presented with one.

A couple weeks ago there was
a home invasion in the place we
call home. An elderly Mennonite
man was bound and beaten to
death for money. His wife,
according to what a source told
the Standard, was also bound but
wasn't beaten at first.

She was feeble from a recent
surgery. This woman of faith, pre-
sented with her husband being
beaten to death, did the thing a
woman of faith does — she start-
ed to sing hymns and she started
to pray.

While I don't know this for
sure, I have to think there had to
be a moment of hesitation inside
her attacker or attackers. I have to
think, I need to think, that the
first thing that raced through the
murderous assailant's mind would
not be to strike her as hard as
God's help.

Maybe, especially, the attacker
hit her because she asked for
God's help. Still, my mind comes
back to what it takes to hit an eld-
erly man until he dies, what it
takes to hit an elderly woman until
her face needs reconstructive sur-
gery.

Even after the first, second,
third or further kicks and or
punches or strikes, was there a
moment of hesitation? Or was the
plan to leave both of the good
people to die?

As the scripture says, we
should all be alert at all times, and
to hope (and pray, if you are so
inclined) to have the strength to
escape the horrible things taking
place.

Because while there are mira-
cles out there — like, the Gideon
speakers — there are also many,
many more in this old world that
have hesitation, see the evil in
their actions, and decide to jump,
headfirst with eyes open wide,
into the darkness.

As the scripture says, "When
justice is done, it brings joy to the
righteous but terror to evildoers."
May the terror for evildoers like
Dylan Roof and those who would
murder a 79-year-old man and
nearly beat his wife to death, first
and foremost, be the realization
that, at some point, they had a
moment of hesitation for a reason.
And they should have listened.

OPINION

A moment of hesitation