



HOME BUILDERS ASSOCIATION NEWS

JANUARY 2021

President's Letter

Serving as HBA of the Greater Pee Dee President in 2020 was a bit like being on a wooden Roller Coaster barreling at 100 mph over the rails with twists, turns, loops and screams. As we all are aware 2020 has us dealing with high demand (good news) and high lumber prices with limited supplies (bad news), all on top of COVID-related stresses related to health, family and school adjustments. Here at the HBA, some plans for 2020 were derailed when COVID-19 overtook our lives, but most of them have stayed on the tracks. Reflecting on it all, these are the high points I see from the engineer's seat: A Remarkably successful Tour of Homes, And Fun with lots of fellowship Golf Tournament at Hartsville Country Club and a BLOWOUT Clay Shoot with over 30 Teams. Four Scholarships totaling over \$7000 awarded to our young people. 6 General Membership Luncheons and the Be Pro Be Proud Trades Simulator Bus at Darlington and Florence Career Centers.

Thank you to everyone involved for supporting those efforts and helping us put them on safely. We heard repeatedly how grateful people were to have events to attend.

Always remember that the Association is here for you as a resource and industry partner. You have a professional staff at your fingertips at the HBA. Call them if you need anything. Chances are, they can help or point you in the right direction as we face the future unknowns together.

Sincerely, Eric Blackburn President of HBA of the Greater Pee Dee

2021 Calendar of Events First Quarter

January

12 HBA Board of Directors Meeting
The Palmetto Room 12 Noon

February

9 HBA Board of Directors Meeting
The Palmetto Room 12 Noon

March

9 HBA Board of Directors Meeting
The Palmetto Room 12 Noon
18 General Membership Meeting
The Palmetto Room 12 Noon

2021 Home Builders Association of the Greater Pee Dee

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- President Eric Blackburn Blackburn Construction
- Vice President Jason Singletary Central Construction
- Associate Vice President Johnny Grant Grants Flooring
- Treasurer Toney Moore Moore Builders
- Secretary Ken Dowling GBD Construction
- Immediate Past President Brian Casey Brian Casey Const.
- HBASC State Director Louie Hopkins Hopkins Builders

BUILDER DIRECTORS

- Commercial Construction/
Builder Director Albert Wingfield AMIS Structures
- Residential Builder Marvin Tisdale Marvin Tisdale Builders
- Residential Builder Ken Gibson Riverbend Builders
- Remodelers Wesley Johnson W J Construction

ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS

- Associate Director Shane Evenich Air Solutions
- Associate Director Herbie Purvis Builders FirstSource

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

- Builder Membership Director Bryant Hollowell Hollowell Homes
- Membership Director Sam Lloyd ABC Supply

SUPPORT DIRECTORS

- State Legislative Chairman Darryl Hall Darryl Hall Homes, Inc.
- PAC Chairman Gary Finklea Finklea Law Firm
- National Senior Life Director Lincoln Privette, Sr. Privette Enterprises, Inc.



“The greatest leader is not necessarily the one who does the greatest things. He is the one that gets the people to do the greatest things.”

— Ronald Reagan

THINGS I AM THANKFUL FOR IN 2020 - THE YEAR OF THE PANDEMIC!

Practicing gratitude has become something of a trend lately—as if developing an inner sense of thankfulness has numerous mental and physical health benefits is new information! As we all tend to (I imagine), I had assumed others were raised with the same kind of emphasis on gratefulness that my parents instilled in me. So, instead of discussing here ways to be More Thankful I would simply share some of my thoughts.

Learning to Be Still The challenges of this year have been beyond stressful in many ways. Yet I look out the window and catch the sun's rays; I see a blue sky and notice the breeze moving the leaves. I wonder, if I would Be Still and notice the leaves fluttering in a breeze or falling to the ground. I truly doubt it. I have been outside more this year, and my attention has been drawn to the simple blessings of the day. I've also been granted new spaces of time in my life because so many things have been canceled or reduced due to restrictions on gathering. If this weren't 2020, chances are I'd be rushing about doing all the stuff of life, and I would rarely pause to notice the gifts of each day.

RE DEFINING WHO I AM 2020 HAS GIVEN ME AMPLE OPPORTUNITIES FOR REDEFINING MYSELF AND HOW I RESPOND TO DAILY EVENTS. I HAVE FELT IT DEEPLY. I THOUGHT I WAS SOMEWHAT OF A PATIENT PERSON. BUT WHEN I NEEDED TO MEET SOMEONE ON A ZOOM CALL (AND I DID NOT KNOW WHAT ZOOM EVEN WAS) AND HAD TO NAVIGATE INSTALLING A NEW SYSTEM I WAS PRESENTED WITH THE CHOICE OF REDEFINING MY CHOICE OF BEING PATIENCE OR FRUSTRATED. I HAVE FELT THESE KINDS OF REFINING MOMENTS REPEATEDLY, ESPECIALLY WHEN I HAVE TO DON A MASK AND REALIZE I LEFT IT SAFELY TUCKED AWAY IN MY CAR. RETURNING TO THE CAR TO RETRIEVE THE MASK (ONE MORE TIME) IS ONE MORE INCONVENIENCE AND NUISANCE—AN INTERRUPTION TO MY DAY AND LIFE. IT WOULD BE EASY TO LIVE IN COMPLAINING MODE ABOUT ALL THE ANNOYING THINGS OF 2020. IT IS WHY THIS PRACTICE OF GRATITUDE IS SO NECESSARY: I NEEDED TO ADJUST MY OUTLOOK OR VISION OF HOW I CHOOSE TO LIVE DAY TO DAY.

All those annoying inconveniences that have suddenly been thrust upon me have given me the opportunity to slow down and grow in patience. I compare it to the shock that comes with bringing home your first baby. No longer can you rush out the door with just keys and wallet. With a new infant, every last resource must be considered—what time of day is it- feed schedule or nap schedule, goldfish snacks, bottles, the diaper bag, the wet ones, and on and on. People generally have months to adjust to some of the protocols of new-baby-season. Yet this year, the whole world was asked to make huge adjustments in a matter of days. I believe we've all perhaps grown more patient, tolerant and resilient (except, of course, when it comes to politics. In that, likely, there is no 'give'—tongue-firmly-in-cheek).

COLLECTIVE REFLECTION I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN, AND HOPE TO ALWAYS BE A LET'S LOOK AT BOTH SIDES OF THE FENCE TYPE PERSON, A SELF-REFLECTIVE PERSON. THAT IS, I SEEK TO LIVE IN AWARENESS OF HOW I LIVE LIFE AND THE CONSEQUENCES OF MY ACTIONS. I TRY TO BE AWARE OF HOW TIME IS SPENT AND HOW RESOURCES ARE USED. AND RESPECTFUL OF OTHER FOLKS PACE IN ADJUSTING TO 2020 LIFE. THIS YEAR, IN PARTICULAR, HAS LENT ITSELF TO LARGER SWATHS OF PEOPLE ENGAGING IN SELF-REFLECTION. I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN A LOAD UP KIND OF PERSON, READY TO GO, DO, SEE AND EXPERIENCE NEW THINGS. I'VE HAD TO HAULT IF NOT COMPLETELY STOP ALOT OF MY GOING, SEEING FRIENDS, MOVIES, TRAVEL, CAMPING AND YIELDING TO THE RESTRICTIONS OF 2020.

Business opportunities have been lost, and many times I have had to reassess the end goal of work. While losses for some have been tremendous and disappointments are around me. I have been given the opportunity to reflect. Can I use this time differently than I would have been using it? I have learned how to make southern biscuits (5 times), my mother's cornbread dressing (3 failed attempts) and a standing rib roast I am grateful that more and more, I am noticing people slowing their lives down just to reflect on new interests at home.

FINDING PEACE SO MUCH ABOUT 2020 HAS NOT FELT PEACEFUL AT ALL. IT HAS FELT DISRUPTIVE, CHALLENGING, STRETCHING, EVEN DEPRESSING AT TIMES. FOR SOME, IT HAS FELT A BIT LIKE SLOW TORTURE OR A MARATHON THEY NEVER INTENDED TO RUN. EVEN WITH ALL THE TURMOIL IN THE WORLD—ANXIETY OVER ILLNESS AND LOVED ONES, POLITICAL UPHEAVALS, RUINED PERSONAL PLANS, MOUNTING LOSSES AND DISAPPOINTMENTS—I HAVE FOUND A SETTLED PEACE IN MY SOUL THAT I AM NOT IN CONTROL, I DO NOT HAVE TO BE IN CONTROL AND CAN BE AT PEACE WITH KNOWING WHO IS IN THE CONTROL... I HEAR MY FAVORITE HYMN WORDS...I COME TO THE GARDEN ALONE... AND HE WALKS WITH ME AND TALKS WITH ME....JESUS' WORDS IN MY EAR BRINGS ME PEACE.

Material Satisfaction Our home is warm enough; we have food on our table. We gather around our table each evening and enjoy a meal—sometimes as simple as soup and bread, and sometimes grander with other provisions. We lack nothing. I'm thankful for my loving pets, ELECTRICITY, Sunshine, a yard full of trees and flowers, front line workers in my community, and the few dollars in our bank. I 'M thankful for a husband capable of working, for vehicles to drive, and for Friends who call to chat. All of these are gifts I'm thankful for.

I am confident that God will continue to show up each and every day for the rest of my life—even in the coming weeks and months. I look ahead to 2021. Instead of wanting more predictability, more 'return to normal', perhaps there is a small yearning for more exploration, more adventure, more resilience, more orienting myself around the things that truly matter.....Cheryl