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# ST. JOHN'S UMC EPISTLE

July/August 2022

Pastor: Rev. Chuck Cole

Editor: Pam Huggins

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Dear St. John's Family,

I used to always begin this with a weather report. Lately, it seems I start with a Huggins Family Medical Report! It is finally some good news. Jim and I are no longer positive for COVID and feeling well. Jamie, Jake, and Miles are doing well also. Jamie is still tired, but an 8<sup>th</sup> month pregnant woman should feel tired! We thank you for all of your prayers and well wishes and hope to see you all soon.

Right now, we are excited to go to our granddaughter's wedding next weekend, have some quality time with KT and her tribe for a few weeks, and welcome a new baby girl during the first week of July!!!

I hope you have noticed all of the "Kindness Matters" signs in Yards throughout the city. It has been the theme for the Staunton City Schools this year. Whether acts of kindness are random or deliberate, they do indeed matter and can alter the entire climate of a community in beautiful ways.

Amelia Earhart had this to say about the power of kindness:

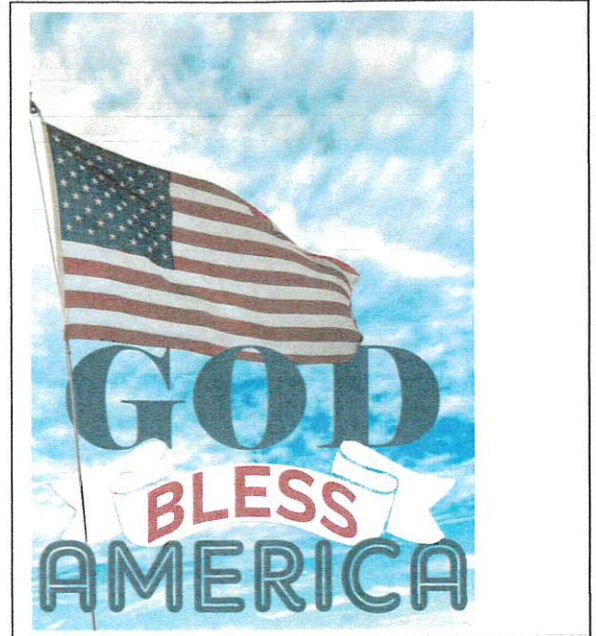
"No kind action ever stops with itself. One kind action leads to another. Good example is followed. A single act of kindness throws out roots in all directions, and the roots spring up and make new trees. The greatest work that kindness does to others is that it makes them kind themselves."

As we find ways to return to some semblance of "normal lives" (if we even know what that means now!), and as we become able to shed ourselves of fear of an unknown future, may we also shed ourselves of acrimony and anger directed to those who may not look like us or think like us. Sometimes the "enemy" is within ourselves and our attitudes.

Jesus is our role model, and as aspirational as that is, we can come closer to realizing it by practicing his virtues: compassion, unselfishness, forgiveness, and, yes, kindness!!!

One of the things I love about this congregation is that there is a wealth of kind, thoughtful, loving people in our pews. In Pastor Chuck's message, he describes our new relationship with Jollivue UMC. Please pray that this new arrangement will be a blessing for both congregations.

Love to all, Pam







Dear Brothers and Sisters of St. John's,

This Summer the congregation of St. John's is beginning a new Journey as a partnered church with Jollivue UMC, a smaller congregation here in Staunton. As of July 1st I will be the pastor of both congregations. St. John's and Jollivue will each contribute to the cost of my support freeing up some resources for ministries. I will be leading worship at Jollivue each Sunday at 9:15 and then come to St. John's for the 11:00 service.

In July Donna Elkins who plays for worship at Jollivue will be sharing her gifts with St John's playing for services July 10th and 24th. Starting in July be on the look-out for worship, fellowship, and ministry opportunities the two churches will share in together.

As we enter into this new relationship there will be a time of transition and figuring out how this partnership will work, so both churches can be more effective in this community for the Lord. I am excited to see what the Lord will do with this partnership this summer and in the days to come.

Peace of Christ,  
Rev. Chuck Cole

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**-St. John's will be joining Cherryvale UMC and Jollivue UMC in putting on Abundance Orchard Vacation Bible School this summer. VBS will run from Sunday, June 26<sup>th</sup> - Thursday, June 30<sup>th</sup> from 5:30pm-8:00pm at Cherryvale UMC. Children from pre-K to 8<sup>th</sup> grade will learn together about God's abundance. To register your child, check out our Facebook page or website to access the link. We look forward to seeing you all at VBS. Volunteers are still needed to lead mixed age groups, please let Pastor Cole know if you would be willing to help.**

## **Hooray for VBS!**

For many churches, vacation Bible school is a summer highlight. The event leads to lasting memories and changed hearts. It also sparks laughter. Maybe you've seen VBS humor online, such as the quote, "I'm tired, I mean like ... vacation Bible school kind of tired!" Another post reads, "You know you're obsessed with VBS when ... you're excited about cardboard on the side of the road." And anyone with an earworm at week's end can relate to this meme: "My parents hid my VBS CD. It's for the best."

For hungry young learners, snacks make an especially big impression. One excited preschooler shared that she enjoyed "juice and Billy Graham crackers" at VBS. Another boy raved about the first day, saying, "We heard stories and drew pictures. Then we went to play, and when we came inside, God had juice and cookies waiting for us!"





Pictures from the Pre-School activities. The celebrated "Community Heroes Week" with some very special visitors!



Mrs. Shanda teaches them some ballet steps!



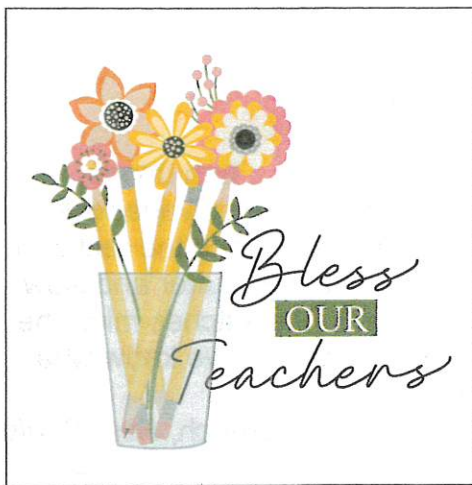
End of the school year special program!



Again, we would like to wish you all a safe and happy summer!

St. John's Preschool Staff,  
Jessica, Donna, & Rebecca





## Nuptial LOLs

When Outreach magazine asked pastors for their most embarrassing mistakes during wedding ceremonies, the responses took the cake. Hundreds of clergy 'fessed up about dropping rings, using the wrong names and even driving to the wrong venue. Have a laugh at these "I do" don'ts!

- I asked the groom if he promised to leave his wife and cleave to all others. Before I could correct it, he said, "I do."
- Due to a bulletin typo, the Bible reading from 1 John was listed as John 4:16-19. In those verses, Jesus tells the woman at the well, "...for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband."
- I accidentally read, "For this reason a man shall leave his father and money and be united to his wife."
- While praying, I meant to say, "Lord, please bless this marriage." The word *message* started to come out instead, and I tried to stop it. Unfortunately, the result was "Lord, please bless this mess."
- I asked the groom, "Do you take this wedded woman to be your wife?"

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## Dual citizenship

For Christianity and democracy to work, both need responsible citizens. Consider what happens to a republic when its citizens won't run for public office, won't vote, won't work for the common good, duck paying taxes and mistreat others. Now consider what happens when Christians won't volunteer at the church, won't give, won't practice their faith, won't love their neighbors. Both our country and our faith need sincere practitioners. Nationally, we need a citizenry committed to making the ideals of liberty the practices of life in America. Christianity needs followers of Jesus committed to making the ideals of God's kingdom the practices of daily life.

This is not an either-or situation. Christians everywhere are citizens of two countries, one on earth and one in eternity. The kingdom of God is not yet fully come, but it's already in effect. Our two citizenships can neither be fully united nor fully separated. We cannot withdraw from the world and pretend we are somehow dwelling only in the kingdom of God now; nor can we simply embrace the world and assume earthly governments fulfill God's will. Those are extremes, and they are unbiblical.

—from a sermon by Stan Purdum

### The power of kindness

No kind action ever stops with itself. One kind action leads to another. Good example is followed. A single act of kindness throws out roots in all directions, and the roots spring up and make new trees. The greatest work that kindness does to others is that it makes them kind themselves.

—Amelia Earhart

### The ministry of quilting and of mending hearts

To sew is to pray. ... We mend ... turn things inside out and set things right. We salvage what we can of human garments and piece the rest into blankets. Sometimes our stitches stutter and slow. ... Other times the tension in the stitches might be too tight because of tears, but only we know what emotion went into the making.

—Louise Erdrich, *Four Souls*

### Why I stopped attending sports events.... Hmmm, sound familiar?

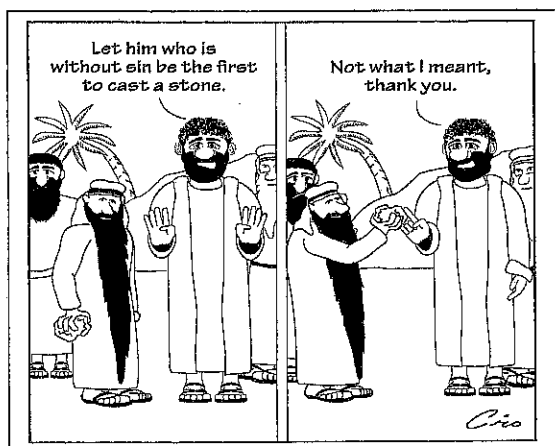
1. Every time I go, they ask for money.
2. The people I have to sit with don't seem friendly.
3. The seats are too hard and uncomfortable.
4. The coach never visits me.
5. The referee makes decisions I disagree with.
6. I sit near some hypocrites; they come only to see what others are wearing.
7. Some games go into overtime, so I'm late getting home.
8. The band plays some music I haven't heard before.
9. The games are scheduled when I want to do other things.
10. My parents took me to too many games when I was growing up.
11. I read a book on sports, so I know more than the coaches do anyhow.
12. I want my kids to choose for themselves what sport they like best.

—Moody Monthly

### Treasure the present

Patience asks us to live the moment to the fullest ... to taste the here and now, to be where we are. When we are impatient, we try to get away from where we are. We behave as if the real thing will happen tomorrow, later, and somewhere else. Let's be patient and trust that the treasure we look for is hidden in the ground on which we stand.

—Henri Nouwen







Thomas Coke (9 Sept 1747 – 2 May 1814) was born in Brecon Wales. He was not a tall man, only 5-foot one inch tall and was prone to being overweight. He was a learned man. He went to the Jesus College, Oxford and received his Doctor of Civil Law in 1775.

He was ordained in the Church of England in 1775. He served a curacy in Somerset and had already allied with the Methodist movement. He got into trouble with the new rector who found out about his holding cottage services of the sort promoted by John Wesley. He was dismissed in 1777.

He had met John Wesley in 1776 and became a close assistant. Wesley called him “the flea” because he always seemed to be hopping around on his missions.

In 1784, Wesley consecrated Coke as Superintendent, a title that was replaced in 1787 in America by that of Bishop. On Christmas Day in 1784 in Baltimore, Coke and Francis Asbury were elected superintendents and the Church was constituted as an independent body under the name of the Methodist Episcopal Church. On 27 December, Coke ordained deacons and presbyters and consecrated Asbury as Superintendent. So, both Coke and Asbury are regarded as jointly the first superintendents (or Bishops) of the Methodist Church

in America.

Coke returned to England in June 1785 and made eight further visits to America. While in America, he spoke out against slavery and actually wrote a letter to George Washington about it. He met with him twice and Washington even invited him to preach before Congress.

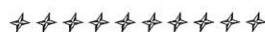
Coke made his first mission to the West Indies in 1786 and further visits in 1788, 1790 and 1792.

Following John Wesley’s death in 1791, he became Secretary to the British Conference. He was President of the Conference in 1797 and 1805.

He was married twice, once in 1805 at the age of 58 and then in 1811. He outlived both wives.

He had hoped to open Methodist missions in the East Indies and on 30 Dec 1813 set sail for Ceylon. However, four months at sea, he died possibly of a stroke. He was buried at sea in the Indian Ocean.

Asbury described him as “a gentleman, a scholar, a bishop to us; and as a minister of Christ in zeal, in labours, in services, the greatest man in the last century”.



English Brent Taylor  
17 December 1947 – 5 June 2022

We have lost another long-time member in our church family. Brent was our treasurer and also handled the endowment fund for many years. He was also a computer geek. He would also help with the BBQ’s we had. Please keep Marion and his family in your prayers.

## WHAT WAS HAPPENING 25 YEARS AGO?

- On 13<sup>th</sup> July, the United Methodist women provided sandwiches and cookies for the Red Cross Blood Mobile.
- Early courtyard services were held starting at 8:45 a.m.
- The rose on the altar was in honor of Cameron Patrick Rice, son of Tim and Kim Rice, born on 4 of August. He is the grandson of Jim & Jean Belshee.
- 17<sup>th</sup> August, the church picnic was held at Polly Moore’s home.
- Also on the 17<sup>th</sup>, Tim & Amanda Crider joined St. John’s
- The rosebud on the altar was in honor of Clinton Lee Fitzgerald, son of Eric and Nancy Fitzgerald, born on 23 1997. He is also the grandson of Dave and Pat Fitzgerald.

## 50 YEARS AGO

- On 1<sup>st</sup> of July, Linda Bagwell and William Duke were married at St. John’s
- Calvin Meek was assistant pastor for the summer.
- On the 13<sup>th</sup> of Aug., the youth held a chicken BBQ supper. Cost - \$1.25 per person.

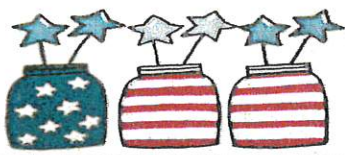


*- Summer is a state of mind.*

*- If you’re not barefoot, then you’re overdressed.*

*I hope everyone has a great 4<sup>th</sup> of July and a lazy August.*

Cindy Phillips



# JULY 2022

| Sun   | Mon                           | Tue                                 | Wed | Thu   | Fri                                   | Sat  |
|---|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----|---|---------------------------------------|--|
|   |                               |                                     |     |   | 1                                     | 2  |
| 3 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost                            | 4 happy 4 <sup>th</sup> JULY! | 5                                   | 6   | 7 Happy Birthday to Ben Crider!!<br>Lectionary Bible Study, 10:30-11:30am | 8                                     | 9  |
| 10 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost                           | 11                            | 12                                  | 13  | 14 Lectionary Bible Study, 10:30-11:30am                                  | 15 Happy Birthday to Marshall Kirby!! | 16 Happy Birthday to Rick Maryman!!<br>Quilt for a Cause, 12:00pm-3:00pm |
| 17 6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost                           | 18                            | 19 Happy Birthday to Jeanean Lewis! | 20  | 21 Lectionary Bible Study, 10:30-11:30am                                  | 22                                    | 23 Happy Birthday to Clinton Fitzgerald!!                                |
| 24 7 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost<br>Church Council Meeting | 25                            | 26                                  | 27  | 28 Lectionary Bible Study, 10:30-11:30am                                  | 29                                    | 30   |
| 31 8 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost                           | 31                            |                                     |     |   |                                       |  |

# AUGUST 2022



| Sun  | Mon                                | Tue                                 | Wed                                      | Thu  | Fri                                   | Sat                                  |
|--|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|--|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
|  |                                    | 1                                   | 2  | 3 Lectionary Bible Study, 10:30-11:30am                                    | 4 Happy Birthday to Pam Huggins!!     | 5                                    |
| 6 9 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost                             | 7                                  | 8                                   | 9  | 10 Lectionary Bible Study, 10:30-11:30am                                   | 11                                    | 12                                   |
| 13 10 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost                           | 14 Happy Birthday to Nancy Insco!! | 15                                  | 16                                       | 17 Lectionary Bible Study, 10:30-11:30am                                   | 18                                    | 19 Quilt for a Cause, 12:00pm-3:00pm |
| 20 11 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost                           | 21                                 | 22 Happy Birthday to Helen Jordan!! | 23 Happy Birthday to Stacey Blackwell!!! | 24 Happy Birthday to Tim Crider!!<br>Lectionary Bible Study, 10:30-11:30am | 25 Happy Birthday to Cindy Phillips!! | 26                                   |
| 27 12 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost<br>Church Council Meeting | 28                                 | 29 Happy Birthday to Tucker Mason!! | 30 Happy Birthday to Harold Ralston!!    | 31   |                                       |                                      |