



Pleasant News

Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church

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WORSHIP TIMES

- 8:45am Bible Study Groups
- 10:00am Worship in the Sanctuary

CONTACT US

Pleasant Grove UMC
P.O. Box 681900
1915 Oakdale Rd
Charlotte, NC 28216
704-392-2387

www.pleasantgrovecharlotte.com

Inspiration Point

This month, we honor women, especially our mothers! Our Scripture lesson is from Proverbs 31:10 – 31. It is too long to print here but read it! It talks about your mom! Have you ever noticed that regardless of how hard or tough a woman is, when she becomes a mother, she is as soft as warm butter when it comes to her children? She may be as beautiful as an Angel or as ugly as homemade sin, but they are always the same when it comes to their children! She has carried the child for nine months inside her body, has loved it, prayed for it, and looked forward to the time when she could hold it in her arms and look upon its little face! And bless that child! That child may be as beautiful as an angel, or it too, maybe as ugly as can be but that mother loves it dearly and thinks it is the most beautiful child ever born! When there is trouble, dads, brothers, sisters, nor anyone else will do! Only Mothers know exactly what it takes to fix the problem! Sometimes it is just a kiss, or a hug, or maybe even a band aid, but Moms always know!

We all know how special Mothers are, but so are our wives! In our Scriptures today, the first line says, "Who can find a virtuous woman?" Then it goes on to say, "for her price is far above rubies!" All women are good women, but when matched up with the right man it is a combination that cannot be beaten!

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When a woman has a man who loves her enough to give himself up for her, she becomes far more precious than rubies! She will love him and take care of him all her life! She will sacrifice for him and make all kinds of allowances for his shortcomings! If he loves her and takes good care of her, then that is all it takes!

The Bible is full of good women who took good care of their husbands and who raised their children! Who is it that prepares the food for her family? Who is it that makes sure that the children have clothes to wear? Who makes sure the children are dressed properly when they go out into the weather? When you got ready to go to Church on Sunday morning and you got dirty, who was it that gave you a spit bath? It was good old Mom, was it not?

Before WWII, this nation's people were pretty much farmers. Mom was home all day, making supper, doing the laundry, cleaning the house, making clothing! (Makes us tired just thinking about how it had to be done, does it not?) When the children got home, they had to do their chores, do their homework, all under Mom's supervision! The kids learned how to do crafts by watching and helping Mom! At our house, we fed and watered the livestock, chopped wood for cooking and for heating and did the cleanup following supper! Mom made sure that we knew how to cook, how to sew on buttons and how to iron our clothes! We learned how to farm by helping Dad.

Throughout our community, our women were known for their integrity, and by their skills in doing crafts, canning, quilt making, making clothes, and such! One other thing, they were quick with a switch too! Back talk and sass were never tolerated! Mom was always on the job, teaching through her example all day long every day! If you want a legacy to be remembered, do like your mom did! I guarantee that you will be loved and respected!

Brother Phil



From the Pastor's Desk

GIVING YOUR ALL TWO BITS AT A TIME

Are you fully devoted to Christ? You call yourself a "Christian" but how does that play out in the ethics of how you choose to live, work, speak, and play? You say, "But I'm a member at "such & such" church." But how often are you involved in the weekly life and ministries of your church?

Yes, these are pointed questions, but sometimes we need to be honest with ourselves and look in the mirror and self-reflect about our spiritual standing with Jesus Christ. A day is coming either sooner or later where all of us will stand face to face with our Creator and He will say either, "Welcome home good and faithful servant" or "I never knew you". Then off to one of two eternities we will go.

So, what does it mean to fully give your life to the Lord? Maybe the following might help answer this question.

Here's an adapted, paraphrased version of an illustration The Rev. Fred Craddock often used to explain what it means to give your life fully to Christ.

We think giving our all to the Lord is like dropping a one-thousand-dollar bill in the offering plate, as if to say: "Here's my life, Lord. I'm giving it all."

The reality is more like the Lord sending us to the bank and having us exchange the \$1000 bill for 4000 quarters. And then we go through life giving away 25 cents here and 50 cents there, in His service.

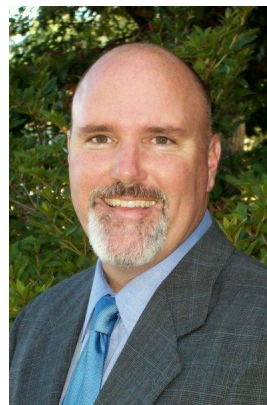
Like when we help a neighbor in need. Or minister to someone who is lonely. Or offer a word of encouragement. Or prepare a meal for a friend. Or serve on a committee at church.

Giving your all to God isn't as flashy as one might think. It's done in all these little acts of love, 25 cents at a time. It would be comparatively easy to go out in a flash of glory. It's much harder to live the Christian life little-by-little over the long haul, two-bits at a time.



***"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."
(Matthew 25:40)***

*Christ above all,
Pastor Byron*



THE FOLLOWING GIFTS WERE MADE TO THE CHURCH IN MEMORY OR IN HONOR OF:

IN MEMORY

Glen Reynolds

Pina Nance

Clay Todd

Nadine Williams – Family Life
Center

Patricia Yonders

Nadine Williams – Family Life
Center

Brooks and Betty Phillips

Randy and Beverly Sipe

Richard Tweed

Ted and Betty Rector

Debbie Zimmerman

Terry Kelly
Pina Nance
Covenant Sunday School
Class
Nadine Williams – Family Life
Center
Steve and Karen Dellinger
Roy and Margaret Parker

Louise Cobb

Nadine Williams – Family Life
Center

Grace Nixon

Ray and Trena McClure
Terry Kelly
Pina Nance
Steve and Maria McClure
Hazel Sanders
Covenant Sunday School
Class
Ron and Anna Robinson
Nadine Williams – Family Life
Center
Steve and Karen Dellinger
Ron and Penny Cate
Larry and Wanda Nixon
Reggie and Christy Nixon
Roger and Patti Beard
Brenda Watkins – Cemetery
Fund

IN HONOR

Sherri Brown

The Glen Reynolds Family

Byron Alexander

The Glen Reynolds Family

Kay Matthews

The Glen Reynolds Family

Phil Turner

The Glen Reynolds Family

Colin Winslette

The Glen Reynolds Family

Dawn Broom

The Glen Reynolds Family

Lindsay Wright

The Glen Reynolds Family

Bill Wright

The Glen Reynolds Family

Madeline Tyson Covenant Sunday School Class

The Glen Reynolds Family

Pleasant Grove Congregation

The Glen Reynolds Family



The Recipe Box

For many of us around Pleasant Grove, and even for so many in the Oakdale community, the original “green cookbook” is the gold standard when it comes to cookbooks. It is chocked full of some of the best-loved and yummiest recipes you could ever find! Many times, when we are searching for a special dish that we remember but can’t quite recall, the old green cookbook is our first stop as we search. This may or may not be where we find success in our search. But one thing is certain...while searching for what we thought we wanted, we find something else that is just as exciting and just as satisfying!!!

This month we would like to pull a recipe from this treasured collection that is credited to one of our legendary cooks. Simply titled, “Strawberry Pie,” from the kitchen of Eleanor Plummer, this recipe is especially appropriate for this time of year. Strawberry season in the Carolinas is here. And with an abundance of these luscious berries available to us, strawberry pies are a natural go-to dessert recipe. Also, this particular recipe makes three pies! So, it is perfect for the large family gatherings that no doubt will happen while we enjoy the beautiful Spring and early Summer weather. You know, Eleanor could feed a crowd with the greatest of ease. The kitchen just seemed to be her happy place...and feeding a bunch of people seemed to double her pleasure. (Honestly, the beach was probably her happiest place! But, if she could be in the kitchen, at the beach, feeding a crowd of loved ones, that was heaven on earth for her!!!)

We do hope that you will enjoy this simple, refreshing recipe. And as you put these pies together, give thanks for all the marvelous cooks with which our church family has been blessed!!!

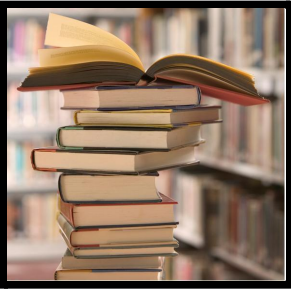
Strawberry Pie

- 1 package frozen strawberries OR 2-3 cups of fresh strawberries
- 1 large carton Cool Whip
- ½ cup lemon juice
- 1 cup chopped nuts
- 1 can sweetened condensed milk
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 3 pie shells, baked and cooled

Chop the strawberries up and mix with Cool Whip. Separately, mix together sweetened condensed milk, lemon juice, vanilla, and nuts. Combine this mixture with the berries and Cool Whip. Pour into three baked and cooled pie shells. Cover and refrigerate until ready to serve.



Recommended Reading



In her 2021 publication of [The Jesus I Know](#), New York Times bestselling author, Kathie Lee Gifford brings us heartwarming and entertaining conversations with individuals who both agree and disagree with her about who Jesus is, what His role has been throughout history, and His presence in our lives today. Kathie Lee has always been known as one who is comfortable speaking of her deep faith with anyone who is interested. And early on, she discovered that most folks are very willing to talk about Jesus: Hindus, Buddhists, Sikhs, Pentecostals, Baptists, Catholics, Scientologists, atheists, agnostics, and yes...even us Methodists.

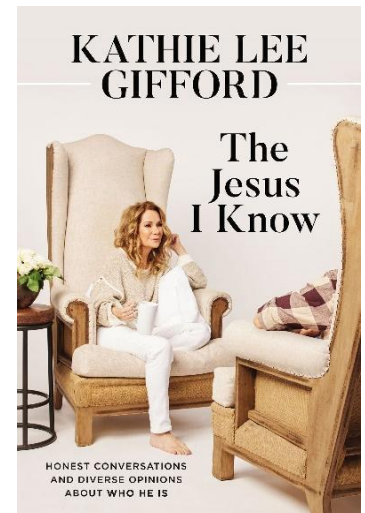
While some of those conversations have revealed that many do not share her belief that Jesus is the Messiah, as prophesied for centuries by prophets in the Hebrew scriptures, they do have a universal fascination with Him. Most do acknowledge that this man, who lived more than two thousand years ago and never traveled more than one hundred miles from His birthplace, did indeed manage to change the world. Even the way we mark time (BC/AD) derives its origin from His short life of thirty-three years.

In this easy-to-read volume, Kathie Lee recounts conversations with actors and comedians, newsmakers and news personalities, musical performers and hitmakers, as well as those coming from other faith traditions. (Many of whom you will instantly recognize.) Some of these conversations prove to be quite surprising! She shares in an intimate and casual way with friends who find Jesus to be an ancient figure of history and someone who somehow continues to be an undeniably magnetic and relevant presence in our modern times. Kathie Lee began most of these talks with a couple of basic questions: “What is your earliest memory of Jesus?” “What was your home like as you were growing up?” “What does Jesus look like in your life now?” These all seem to be rather good starting points for this conversation, wouldn’t you think?

Kathie Lee Gifford believes that she doesn’t always need to be sitting in the pew with a sanctuary full of like-minded, like-thinking people. She believes that she learns and grows in her own faith journey by having real, honest conversations with people from all walks of life with all sorts of different stripes and persuasions. She believes that it is in getting to know and respect one another that we can exhibit the very attribute that Jesus exemplified the most...Loving one another.

In reading [The Jesus I Know](#), you must keep in mind that each chapter is simply a conversation. If we are all strong in our faith and know without a shadow of a doubt that Jesus is Lord of our lives and that He is indeed the Savior of the world, then we have nothing to fear in reading a different theology or approach to religion. How are we ever to reach the world for Jesus if we close off our minds and hearts to those who are different from us?

We encourage you to read [The Jesus I Know](#) and to see that through love and compassion, coupled with respect and understanding, we can each be a strong and sure witness for Jesus Christ. We can certainly take a lesson from Kathie Lee about how to employ our favorite scripture passages as scaffolding for life-changing conversations. It is in this way that Jesus’ teachings can come to life as never before, in your life and the life of someone you love. You can find this thought-provoking book in bookstores and libraries, as well as in our own Lending Library at Pleasant Grove. Happy Reading!!!



United Women in Faith News



United
Women
in Faith

The United Methodist Women's organization has adopted a new name after five years of conversations, surveys and focus groups. The new name, "United Women in Faith" is the 25th title since the organization was established in 1869. United Women in Faith has the honor of being the largest denominational faith organization for women with over 800,000 members around the world. As the new name is used, different needs and life stages of

current and new members will be addressed. There is also a new logo and mission statement. The logo represents the past, present, and future of our organization. The symbol (in the shape of a cross) refers to our Christian roots. Multicolored pieces of the Cross come together representing the diversity the organization aims for and the inward and outward reflection we engage in as women of faith. The United Women in Faith mission statement reads "United Women in Faith seeks to connect and nurture women through Christian spiritual formation, leadership development, creative fellowship, and education so that they can inspire, influence, and impact local and global communities."

Circles #3 and #6 met on Tuesday, April 12. Circle #3 met at 2 P.M. with nine members present. They enjoyed viewing slides of Old Jerusalem, the Temple Mount, Dome of the Rock, the Garden Tomb, and Gethsemane. Canned goods were collected for Oak Grove and Easter cards sent to shut-ins and nursing home residents. Circle #6 met with nine members present to clean the sanctuary and share in a Bible study devotional about "worry." Word has it that the "cleaning ladies" had some good clean fun together!

The United Women in Faith meeting for May will be on Tuesday, May 10. Hope to see you then.



Spring Break Gift Cards---Mission Accomplished!!

Thanks to all who contributed to our efforts to help families put food on the table during the Spring Break holiday from school! Through your generosity we were able to help twelve families through a hard week...a week without breakfast and lunch at school. With the help of the Oakdale School staff we were able to provide very generous gift cards to these families...putting resources right where they were needed...on the dinner table! You may never meet the family you helped, but you need to know that the help was much appreciated and that it made a difference, in their lives and in yours!



*"I tell you the truth, whatever you did for the least of these, you did for me."
(Red Letters from Matthew 25: 40)*

After-School Care Post



We have officially made it to the last month of school!!! We are so glad to have had a good school year involving very few issues involving Covid-19 and to have made the switch to no longer wearing masks. We are praying that this holds and that we can continue to be happy and healthy! Springtime and Easter are such fun times to spend with the kids! There are so many colorful and interesting crafts and activities...and the time

we get to spend outside is just glorious! This year, we celebrated Easter with Jell-O eggs, Easter cake, an Easter egg hunt, and other fun Easter-themed activities.

We will go directly to Summer Camp following the last days of school. At Summer Camp we go on field trips, do crafts, have outdoor and gym play time, and many other fun activities that the kids enjoy. If you know of anyone in need of childcare for the summer, please have them contact us as we have limited spots open in this program.



While we are excited to welcome new students to Summer Camp, we are also looking for someone who would be interested in working at Summer Camp. If you would like to join us in this summer fun, give us a call at 704.393.7895. We are available to talk to you Monday through Friday from 2:30-6:00 PM until the close of the school year. If you love kids and enjoy spending time with them, we would love to hear from you!!!



Graduate Sunday at The Grove



Graduation is such an exciting thing to have happen in your life! Whether you are graduating from high school, college, grad school, or a certificate program, it is an occasion that marks an important transition for you...a bridge, if you will, from one phase of life to another. On Sunday, June 5th, we will be honoring Pleasant Grove's graduates for this past year during our 10:00 worship service. Several of these graduates finished up their degree back in December, and some are finishing up this phase of their education this Spring. Please make plans to

join us for this very special day as we recognize the accomplishments of these beautiful young people and pray over them as they step into whatever is next for them. Our sweet church has a tradition of sending some awesome Christian leaders out into the world and this year will be no exception!!!



We "May" Make a Difference!!!

You have heard all the cliches... "It takes a village," "We are better together," and "Together we can make a difference." And we are sure that all would agree that these sayings are quite true! But, just to prove the point, Pleasant Grove UMC and Oakdale Elementary School are going to join forces during the first two weeks of May to make a difference...together!



Over the years Pleasant Grove has been very instrumental in supporting our neighboring students and staff at Oakdale. We are sure that you remember taking part in the school supply drives, school uniform collections, our Backpack Buddy ministry, school beautification projects, holiday meal gifts, lunch buddies, reading buddies, and many other times that we have been able to serve this vital part of our community. The school has now chosen to partner with us as we reach out to those in need. From May 2nd to May 13th, the school will be collecting shelf-stable items and canned goods for Oak Grove's Food Pantry. As the collections come in, we will be bringing their donations to the church, to combine with our own collection, to be taken to

Oak Grove. So, mark your calendar now for the first two weeks of this month and make a special effort to support this ministry. Together, with our neighbors across the street, we will indeed be able to make a difference in the lives of those who struggle to put food on the table during these trying times. We are so very appreciative of Oakdale School, their participation with us, and their recognition that it really does take a village!!!

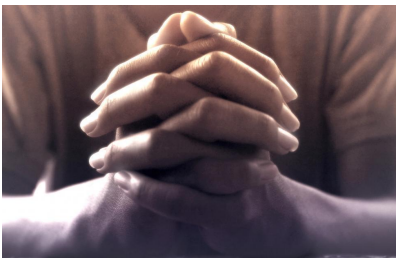
National Day of Prayer

On Thursday, May 5th, our country will once again observe the National Day of Prayer. This observance, held annually on the first Thursday in May, invites people of all faiths to pray for our nation. This day has great significance for us as a nation as it enables us to recall and to teach the way in which our founding fathers sought the wisdom of God when faced with critical decisions. It stands as a call for us to humbly come before God, seeking His guidance for our leaders and His grace upon us as a people.



"Fasting and prayer are religious exercises; the enjoining them an act of discipline. Every religious society has a right to determine for itself the time for these exercises, and the objects proper for them, according to their own particular tenets; and right can never be safer than in their hands, where the Constitution has deposited it."

—Thomas Jefferson, 1808



And now a little bit of the history of this day of prayer... The first Continental Congress called for a National Day of Prayer in 1775. Later, in 1863, Abraham Lincoln also called for such a day. In 1952, Congress established the National Day of Prayer as an annual event by a joint resolution, signed into law by President Harry S. Truman. President Ronald Reagan signed an amended law in 1998 designating the National Day of Prayer as the first Thursday in May.

For sure, the focus of the National Day of Prayer is on public prayer. On May 5th there will be many gatherings and events with prayer for our nation at the center. Some of our church family may choose to attend one of these events. However, no matter where you are, you can spend time in prayer for our nation on this day. Invite a friend to meet you for coffee and pray together. Gather your family around the dinner table and pray together. Or simply get on your knees, bow your head, and lift our country, its leaders, and His people up to the Lord. Prayer is a powerful thing...a gift from God! Let us not take the gift for granted!



Our Lending Library is Here for You!!!



Don't forget that Pleasant Grove has its own lending library! If you are looking for a good read...something that will inspire, inform, entertain, or help you along on your walk with the Lord...then we just may have what you need. We are located in the Gathering Room of the Family Life Center. Simply choose your title, take it home, enjoy it, and return it for others. Simple, isn't it? The books await. Let's get reading!!!

Happy Mother's Day!!!



If you look up Mother's Day in an online encyclopedia, you will find that Mother's Day is defined as a celebration honoring the mother of the family or individual, as well as motherhood, maternal bonds, and the influence of mothers in society.

Sunday, May 8th is Mother's Day! Now we all know what happens on this particular day. Cards will be given. Flowers will be delivered. Special meals will be prepared. And many people will do their best to spend time with their mothers as a way of honoring them. Some of the cards will be homemade. Some of the flowers will be plucked from the yard. And some of the meals might be suspect. But the actual things aren't the important part. The importance lies in the time that you devote to honoring your mom.

When I think of Mother's Day, I think of honoring not just "a" mother, but instead, honoring those who have mothered me. Like many of you, I was blessed with an incredible mother. Dare Green was fun, kind, wise, resourceful, protective, nurturing, and hard-working. She was also a great cook! When I was sixteen years old, Mom received a devastating diagnosis and when I was seventeen, she went to heaven. And although I grieved her absence for such a long time, I also have come to realize that God has put many others in my life in mothering roles. I had a father who stepped in and took the parenting helm, guiding me through high school graduation and into college. I had aunts on both sides of the family who communicated love and care to me. We shared laughter. We shared stories. They shared recipes. Together with them I entered adulthood, marriage, and parenting.



I was also blessed with neighbors who would sit on the porch with me, sharing their special brand of wisdom, making sure that I gleaned what I needed from my mother's generation of women. I have had church family members who have cheered me on and have made sure that I stayed strong in my faith life as I navigated life. I have even had age-peers who have served in the mothering sense in so many ways...helping me through tough times when I would have loved to be able to go to my Mom with my worries. So, you see, for so many of us our "mother" may not be with us in a physical sense. But God has seen fit to make sure that others have been in our path, both male and female, mothering us in some very important ways. Thank you, God! I am so incredibly grateful to have had the influence and wise counsel of these beautiful people.

On May 8th, as you consider those who have mothered you over the years, be sure to let them know how much they mean to you and how grateful you are for their presence in your life! You might even want to pick a dandelion out of the yard and give it to them!!!

---submitted by Sherri Brown

Memorial Day...Remembering Our Heroes



On Monday, May 30th, we will once again pause as an American people to reflect upon and give thanks for those who have given the ultimate sacrifice while serving our country. Memorial Day is observed on the last Monday of May each year and was originally known as Decoration Day. It originated in the years after the American Civil War but did not become an official federal holiday until 1971. Many of us observe Memorial Day by visiting cemeteries or memorials, holding family gatherings, and attending or participating in parades. Unofficially, this day marks the beginning of summer.

And while you may celebrate this patriotic holiday with a day off from work, a family picnic, a day at the ballfield, or a day at the lake, Pleasant Grove would like to encourage our entire church family to take the time to visit our Memorial Park (the cemetery on Pleasant Grove Road). In the days just before Memorial Day, American flags will be placed on the gravesites of all deceased veterans. There will also be a wreath at the flagpole in honor and memory of those who gave their lives in service to our great nation. We suggest that you walk through the cemetery, taking note of those who have served in the military and those who died while serving. Take a moment to give thanks for these men and women and pray for peace in our world today.



LUNCH TIME

PG Prayer Lunch

The PG Prayer Lunch meets every Thursday at 11:30 a.m. at The Stockyard Restaurant. Everyone...men and women, church members and friends, are welcome to join us. We would love to have you with us for this time of food, fellowship, and prayer as we come together seeking God's power and presence in our lives and in the world around us.

Thursdays - 11:30 AM - The Stockyard

PGUMC Members to Remember



We all know that when we can't make it to our church gatherings we miss the Christian fellowship, the spiritual nurture, and just being with the people. Please remember our fellow church members with your love, your prayers, your cards, and your visits!!!

Nancy Cater—Shad's Landing, Room 303, 9131 Benfield Rd, Charlotte, NC 28269

Tecil & Sue Curlee—Brookdale Assisted Living, Room 9, 1680 S New Hope Rd, Gastonia, NC 28054

Dwight Henry—8406 Coulwood Oaks Ln, Charlotte, NC 28216

Reba Henry—Autumn Care, 19530 Mt Zion Ave, Cornelius, NC 28031

Ruth Isenhour—Morningside of Gastonia, Unit B, 2755 Union Rd, Gastonia, NC 28054

Bonnie Johnson—825 Peninsula Dr, Apt 219, Davidson, NC 28036

Eloise Locklear—5630 Oak Dr, Charlotte, NC 2826

Mary Frances McCall—6428 Pleasant Grove Rd, Charlotte, NC 28216

Tommy Moore—9414 Stonegate Dr, Charlotte, NC 28216

Joe Primm—Unlimited Possibilities, 14009 Thompson Rd, Mint Hill, NC 28227

Robert Tadlock, Sr.—327 Radio Rd, Charlotte, NC 28216

Harriet Tweed—13809 Castleford Dr, Mint Hill, NC 28227

Angela Walker—Northlake House, Room 102, 9108 Reames Rd, Charlotte, NC 28216





We recently received this word of thanks from Oak Grove United Methodist Church:

Dear Friends and Family at Pleasant Grove,

Thank you for your generous gifts of food to the Oak Grove UMC Food Pantry. Oak Grove United Methodist Church strives to share God's message of hope, forgiveness, and love to the world. Such gifts in support of our church's ministry to the needy and homeless in our community make a tremendous difference in the community and in the world. The people of Oak Grove appreciate this kind and generous support.

Sincerely,
Rev. Glenda Bennett
Oak Grove UMC

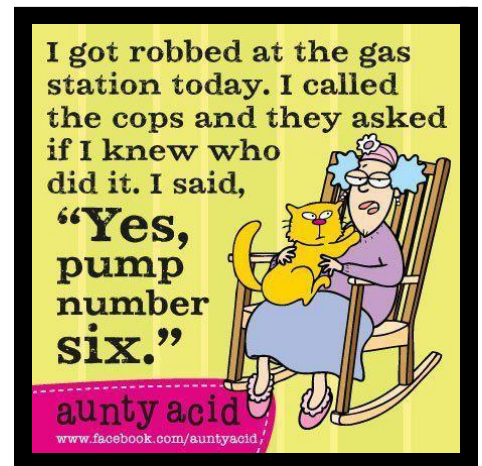
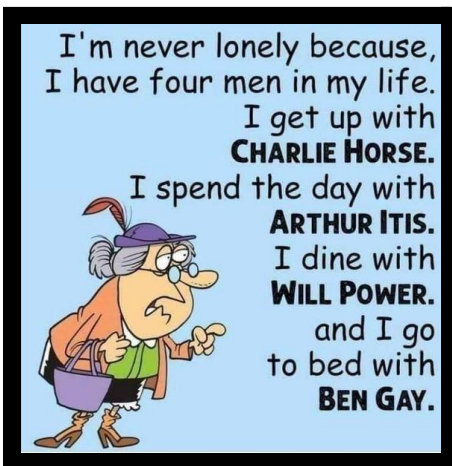
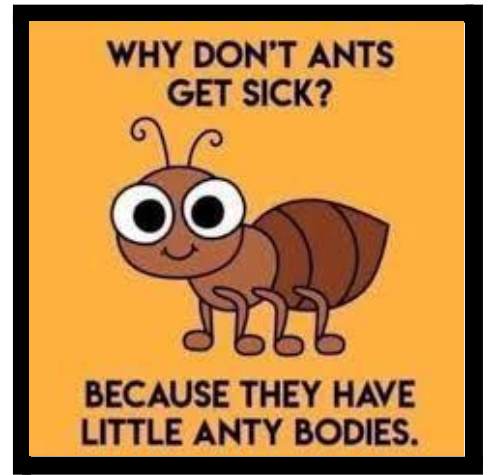


The church family extends our deepest sympathies to:

The family of Grace Nixon upon her passing.

The family of Sylvia Klassette Chapman upon her passing.

Just For Giggles!!!





MAY WORD SEARCH

Can you find all of the words associated with May?

B V C W E E G L S T Y B S F W
K O A A L T A F Q K U D P L O
C R U D T D E B G T P X R O R
M F D Q Y E K K T Y A M I W M
I U E B U E R E S H N K N E S
P K U D S E R P Z A A M G R T
R G Q B P F T P I L B X T S J
S L E A L L M T L L N A I T B
B N N Y Z T P E A F L M M N R
G N I N E D R A G O R A E A Y
E J H W O B N I A R C O R L K
R K S P M B D F X I W N G P N
P N N U Y B L O S S O M I S U
U E U S P R I N G K F F G A H
L A S L J U W R M B K C E H R

-
- | | | |
|-------------|-----------|------------|
| BASKET | GARDENING | SPRINGTIME |
| BLOSSOM | LADYBUG | SPRING |
| BOUQUET | MAY | SUNSHINE |
| BUTTERFLY | PLANTS | UMBRELLA |
| CATERPILLAR | PUDDLE | WARM |
| FLOWERS | RAINBOW | WORMS |
| FROGS | RAINCOAT | |