

ILLUMINATOR

"Ye are the LIGHT of the world." Matthew 5:14

HEAVEN'S GROCERY STORE

I was walking down life's highway a long time ago.
One day I saw a sign that read, "Heaven's Grocery Store".
As I got a little closer the door came open wide,
And when I came to myself I was standing inside.
I saw a host of Angels, they were standing everywhere.
One handed me a blanket and said, "My child shop with care.
Everything a Christian needs is in that grocery store,
And all you can't carry, come back the next day for more."

First, I got some Patience, Love was in the same row,
Further down was Understanding, needed everywhere you go.
I got a box or two of Wisdom, a bag or two of Faith,
I just couldn't miss the Holy Ghost, it was all over the place.
I stopped to get some Strength and Courage to help me run this race,
But then my blanket was getting full, and I remembered I needed Grace.

I didn't forget Salvation, which like the others was free,
So I tried to get enough of that to save both you and me.
Then I started to the counter to pay my grocery bill,
For I thought I had everything to do my master's will.
As I went up the aisle, I saw Prayer and had to put it in,
For I knew when I stepped outside, I would run right into sin.
Peace and Joy were plentiful, they were on the last shelf.
Song and Praises were hanging near, so I just helped myself.

Then I said to the Angel, "How much do I owe?"
The Angel smiled and said, "Just take them everywhere you go."
Again, I politely asked, "How much do I really owe?"
The Angel smiled again and said,
"My Child, Jesus paid your bill a long time ago."

FROM THE PASTOR'S HEART

Why am I a Christian? With all the choices of religions and faiths in the world, why would I continue to follow the way of Christ? What is unique about Christianity? Why does Christianity claim to be The Way to God? Last week I gave you reason Number 5 – Christianity offers the most memorable, ethical and moral teachings.

Reason NUMBER 6. I want to conclude this apologetic as summer draws to a close with the most surprising reason of all. God surprised me with Himself. You see, I attended church very little in my childhood. I did not know God or much about Him. After my father retired and we moved to South Carolina, I attended church there for the first time.

I have to admit, I did not go to church with any thought of God. I wasn't looking for Him. I had no interest in Him at all. He was not even on my mind that day. I did not go to church to learn about Christianity or to compare it with any other religion. I do not even remember what the minister preached about.

But...at the end of the service something came upon me. I did not know it was God. I didn't know what was happening. I felt a strong convicting that something was missing in my life and something was wrong with me. Literally I felt sick all week. Later the minister came by and shared about Jesus with me. I did not have to be asked or persuaded. No one pressured me. You see, God had spoken to me, convicted me of my sin, and drew me to Himself.

I could not pray more willing. When I asked God into my life, I immediately felt the burden of my sin and guilt lift off my shoulders like a ton of bricks being hoisted up. That was when I realized there really is a God and He had reached out to me. I did nothing to try to find Him. I was not thinking about God in any way. He surprised me. That's why I know He is real.

Had I been pursuing God or studying religions I might have concluded that it was just me bringing this on myself. But up to that point, I had never felt any guilt of sin or cared at all about my soul. God truly came to me and surprised me. It was all Him and none of me. The one, true God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ came to me. I have no doubt that it was real. I was totally and radically changed and never say life the same way again. That's another reason I firmly believe Christianity is real.

I hope you have enjoyed my perspective on Christianity. The world doesn't seem to care much for Christianity any more. People are falling away from the faith. But I truly believe that if they had met the same God who came to me that day, they would be willingly serving Him also. God bless you.

Bro. Tony

Tony.Brown@whitesburgfbc.org

MASTER'S HARMONY

SUNDAY, JULY 24, 6:00 P.M.

Invite your family, friends and neighbors to join you for some good gospel music.

FAITH AND THE FAMILY

Therefore, I remind you to keep ablaze the gift of God that is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God has not given us a spirit of fearfulness, but one of power, love, and sound judgment.
2 Timothy 1:6-7

Upcoming 5th & 6th Graders, the previous verses are my challenge to you. In his letters to Timothy, Paul was always an encourager and mentor. Paul was well aware of the hardships that Timothy was facing in his ministry, and challenged him to keep his spiritual gifts ablaze through fervent prayer, obedience to God's Word and demonstrating an active faith.

Christian 5th & 6th Graders, God has gifted you: ignite those gifts through prayer, reading the Bible, and doing what pleases Him. You are not too young to have spiritual gifts and to serve God, don't let anyone tell you that you are. If you don't know what your spiritual gifts are, that is okay. Come to Sunday School, drama and choir practices, Wednesday night activities, and ask for guidance from your parents and other trusted Christians. Be willing to be disciple so you can serve God with power, love, and sound judgment.

With my eyes on Him,

Jeremy

Prov. 27:17

CHILDREN'S & FAMILY ACTIVITIES

July 19 – Trip to Creation Kingdom Zoo (cost is \$10 per person and money for a fast food lunch) we will leave the church at 8:30 A.M.

July 20 – Adventures through the OT & NT (children) 7:00-8:00 P.M.

July 24 – Family Game Night – 6:00 P.M.

August 3 – Messy Game Night (children) 7:00-8:00 P.M.

Kid's Day Backpack Challenge

Our church has been challenged to provide 50 backpacks for this event. The backpacks should include the following: a 3-ring binder, a 3-pronged folder, a spiral notebook, a pencil sharpener, 3 pencils, a ruler, an 8 ct. box of crayons, a toothbrush and toothpaste, stick sunscreen, a highlighter, a comb, travel shampoo, a glue stick, a big eraser, 3 ink pens, and a pack of paper. Backpacks should be generic (not name brand). Backpacks need to be dropped off to the church by **Sunday, July 17th**.

AWANA LEADER MEETING

It's almost time for *Awana* to start back! In preparation for the exciting year that lies ahead of us, please plan to attend one of these meetings if you volunteer in any capacity with *Awana*.

Wednesday, August 10th – 6 P.M. in Room 110

Sunday, August 14th – 5 P.M. in Room 110

CALLING ALL NURSERY, PRESCHOOL, CHILDREN & YOUTH WORKERS

Please plan to attend one of these meetings in order to review the Child Protection Policy that has been developed. Your input is desired and this is a great opportunity to become familiar with the policy. The meetings will be held in the Fellowship Hall.

Sunday, August 21 – 5:00 P.M.
Tuesday, August 23 – 11:00 A.M.
Thursday, August 25 – 6:00 P.M.

LEADING GOD'S PEOPLE TO *REALLY* WORSHIP

FRIDAY, AUGUST 19

6:15 – 9:00 P.M.

First Baptist Church, Whitesburg

Sponsored by Three Forks Baptist Association

Featuring

HERSHAEL YORK

Professor of Preaching

The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

Pastor, Buck Run Baptist Church, Frankfort

ERIC ALLEN

Missions Mobilization Team Leader

Kentucky Baptist Convention

This workshop is primarily for, but not limited to, those who help lead worship – pastors, music leaders, choir directors, choir members, deacons, etc.

Mark your calendar for this event.

MUSIC NOTES

Curiosity kills the cat is an expression I grew up hearing quite often. I very often want to know why things are the way they are and how they got there. When it comes to music, I tend to know the background information behind the song, the why behind the words. When I started singing in the FBC choir, the older choir members always wanted to sing the song, *"The Family of God"*. I never truly understood the reason that song was so special. I just assumed that as with all other churches there were certain songs that were set aside as special because members over time especially loved them or special events occurred at the church that gave special meaning to certain songs. Growing up I remember, *"Victory in Jesus"* and *"Because He Lives"* as staples, ones sang frequently that brought joy to those singing them.

Ron, a mechanic and member of Bill & Gloria Gaither's church, was working on Good Friday to make up for work he had missed the week prior when his daughter had to have tests for an upcoming heart surgery. While working with some combustible material, there was an explosion. He managed to crash through some large doors before the building blew apart and went up in flames. He was burnt severely over most of his body and the physicians did not expect him to make it through the night.

Members of the church family immediately began their prayer chain, and the whole church began to pray for Ron. They prayed in small groups, larger groups, in various homes, on the phone, and even met at the church. The church was left open overnight and lights burned all through the night as a steady stream of members came to pray for Ron and his family. On Easter morning, news came from the pastor that Ron had outlived his deadline and he had a chance. The church family rejoiced and began to plan for the needs that may arise over the next several months for Ron and his family.

Bill and Gloria returned home that Sunday and discussed how their church family would have done the same for any member of the body that was suffering, including them. Not because they were worthy or had earned special treatment or were indispensable—but just because they were a part of the Family of God!

I now understand why this song was so special to the choir when I first arrived at our church. Over the years I have seen our church family do the very same things in times of adversity and suffering. I'm so glad I'm a part of the Family of God!

*"I'm so glad I'm a part of the family of God—
I've been washed in the fountain, cleansed by His blood!
Joint heirs with Jesus as we travel this sod,
For I'm part of the family, the family of God!"*

A father wanted to read the paper, but was being bothered by his little daughter, Susie. Finally, he took a sheet of his paper, on which was printed the map of the world. Tearing it into small pieces, he gave it to Susie, and said, "Go into the other room and see if you can put this together."

After a few minutes, Susie returned and handed him the map correctly fitted together. The father was very surprised and asked how she had finished so quickly.

"Oh," she said, "on the other side of the paper is a picture of Jesus. When I got Jesus in His place, then the world came out all right."

YOUTH HAPPENINGS

"Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually!" 1 Chronicles 16:11

Please come out and join our Youth Bible Study every Wednesday evening at 6:30 and drama practice every Sunday at 6:00.

On Sunday evening during drama practice, we will continue to work on material for upcoming worship services and begin practicing the sequel to "Finding the Christmas Star", "The First Day of Christmas"! If you are interested in being a part of our Christmas play, come out to practice.

We are in the process of planning activities and events for the remainder of the summer and the fall. If you have any suggestions, just let me know or post them on the Youth Facebook page.

SUNDAY MORNING SNACKS

July 17
Philip & Julie Bentley

Thank You!

The family of Dr. Dwayne Sizemore would like to thank our church family, friends and loved ones for all your love, support and prayers during this time of grief, and a special thanks you to Bro. Tony and Shannon for helping us celebrate Dwayne's life and going home.

TINA, SAMANTHA, ALEX

SUMMER STORM

Looking for a way to help little ones manage anxiety about thunderstorms? Read this prayer-poem together and remind children of God's protection whenever we're afraid.

I run outside to laugh and play.
Keep me safe, dear Lord, I pray.
I look about. Dark clouds roll near.
The sky declares, "A storm is here!"

Then the thunder rumbles, cracks and booms!
I hurry home to watch the show
Of lightning flashing all around
And raindrops tumbling to the ground.
A rainbow, Lord, please send my way.
Then I will run outside and play.

■ Mary Ann Sundby

REMINDERS

Church office hours are Monday-Thursday, 9:00-5:00 P.M.

Deadline for articles, announcements, etc. that need to be in The Illuminator is noon on Tuesday.

Announcements for the bulletin must be turned in to the church office no later than Noon on Thursday.

If your address or phone number changes, please contact the church office with new information.

No food or drinks are permitted in the sanctuary.

A Sunday School teacher asked her little children, as they were on the way to church service, "And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?" One bright little girl replied, "Because people are sleeping."

MEMORIAL GIFTS

UNIFIED BUDGET

QUENTIN & JEAN LEWIS
LEIGH LEWIS STEWART
In Memory Of
WANDA RODGERS REYNOLDS

FAMILY LIFE CENTER

PHIL & LINDA BENTLEY
In Memory Of
DR DWAYNE SIZEMORE

DEACONS MEETING

SAT., JULY 16, 7:30 A.M.

BUSINESS MEETING

WEDNESDAY, JULY 20, 7:00 P.M.

HELP NEEDED!!

The church is in need of a recycle bin for cardboard, etc. It needs to be 5'x5'. If you have one that you would like to donate to the church, please call the church office.

DEACON OF THE WEEK

JULY 17 - 23

JERRY INGRAM

FAMILY LIFE CENTER

TOTAL NEEDED – PHASE 2

\$500,000.00

GIVEN TO DATE

\$392,632.00

NEEDED

\$106,211.00

While taking a routine vandalism report at an elementary school, I was interrupted by a little girl about 6 years old. Looking up and down at my uniform, she asked, "Are you a cop?" "Yes," I answered and continued writing my report. My mother said if I ever needed help I should ask the police. Is that right?" "Yes, that's right," I told her. "Well, then," she said as she extended her foot toward me, "would you please tie my shoe?"



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- July 17: Regina Brown, Tammy Fugate, Debbie Narramore
18: Fred Hall
19: Shane Caudill, Christina Fisher, Logan Thomas
21: Brenda Boggs, William A Ison, Brenda Skeens
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OBSERVANCE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

SUNDAY, JULY 31

LAST SUNDAY'S STATISTICS

Sunday School ----- 100
Adults -- 62
Youth -- 14
Children -- 17
Preschool -- 7
Morning Worship ----- 175

SPECIAL MINISTRIES

Housing Authority ----- 5
Letcher Manor -----
AWANA
Children: Adults:
Youth: Adults:

ADDITIONS TO DATE

(September – August)

By Baptism ----- 8
By Letter ----- 4
By Statement ----- 3
TOTAL ADDITIONS ----- 15

TOTAL RECEIPTS

Budget Receipts ----- \$ 7,456.50
Budget Requirement ----- \$ 7,138.00
Family Life Center ----- \$ 200.00
Designated ----- \$ 37.00
Budget Required to Date ----- \$199,864.00
Budget to Date ----- \$190,490.48

EXTENDED SESSION WORKERS

July 17

April Ramirez, Rita Broome

July 24

Diane Lewis, Amy Bates

PRESCHOOL WORSHIP

July 17

Becca & Calvinston Cook

July 24

Elisa Cook

CHILDREN'S CHURCH WORKERS

July 17

Amanda & Byron Thomas

July 24

Misty & Richard Wright, Viva Anderson