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a newsletter for the Forest Hill Church of Christ since 1974

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Everybody—come back to church! Even if you have not been fully vaccinated, *please come back*. We are having short services on Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m. We are doing social distancing and masks; so you should feel assured that all precautions are being taken for everyone's safety. Your temperature will be taken when you come in—front door only please.

Aren't you tired of staying home on Sunday morning when everything in your body, heart, and soul tells you that you ought to be in church services? We have fought the good fight and been solitary and careful for over a year. Now church is opening up again and you are encouraged to swell our ranks.

Let's show God, our neighbors and friends that Forest Hills is still strong, still ready to obey God and do His will in all things. Let's pick up that gauntlet and charge on once more.

For a couple of weeks when Matt first said those who had been vaccinated twice could come back Bettye Campbell was the only person who showed up. What sort of faith does it take for someone to come back to church and sit all alone in our auditorium? God bless you for your example Bettye! On the third week Matt opened up church to everyone. We were there along with seven others. And this last Sunday—even more people showed up!

Everyone said the same thing, "It feels sooo good to be back!" Please join us as soon as you are able and let yourself feel happy and at peace once again.

—Pt



Sunday, April 4th

The *Talk*, since 1974, has been a monthly newsletter for the Forest Hill Church of Christ and is dedicated to Christian unity. The usual deadline for submission of articles is the last Sunday of every month with the exception of December.



Talk Staff

Pam Thornton..... Editor
Joe Mason..... Roving Reporter
Joe & Portia Mason..... Prison Ministry

At last, church has opened up again and you are all welcome on Sunday morning at 9:30 and on Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m.



For anyone who wants to attend there will be a Good Friday service at the building this Friday at 6:00 p.m.

Inside the Talk this month

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..... And, just see what else there is →



Then, of course, don't forget that Sunday, April 4th is Easter! Come and celebrate with us.



Remember: all the medical professionals who are still on the front lines; all the people who have lost loved ones recently; John Moore's brother Jackie who is having severe reactions to COVID; Terri Moore's brother Walter who is very ill in the hospital, Agnes Lucas' young relative Mica who is two and battling leukemia; Ed Park's sister Ernestine died this past week; Vera Traylor is trying to find housing for her mom up here; Lillie Glenn's cousin Denise passed away this past week; and pray for Lillie as well, she has had to bury five of her relatives during this pandemic year; Bettye Campbell's son-in-law is having a kidney transplant; Jamie Smith's 92 year old mom is in the hospital. Please pray attentively for these dear ones.

Remember that the spring season has been given to us by our Lord to teach us something about life continuing to go on even though we think we've experienced death (winter). Get outside—learn the lesson—and see the daffodils, tulips, and all the flowering going on right now. See God's face in every enlivened flower, tree, bush, and green blade of grass! Then relax and know this is God's world, and we are His.



The day the Lord created hope was probably the same day He created spring.

—Bernard Williams

Of interest...

LEARNING THE LESSONS

©by pam thornton

As we all get our vaccines and come back to church and to other gatherings I think we can say we are coming to a wind down of this awful pandemic.

It has been hard most of the time and frustrating all of the time. And, I am saying that without having contracted the virus nor having lost any close family members. For those of you who have suffered with the virus and/or lost loved ones my heart goes out to you. To endure something like that without the physical love and support of your church family just hurts to imagine. How often we prayed for you but we also wanted to share a hug and whisper precious words of hope to you!

As with everything we endure in this life God wants us to learn the lessons provided in every experience.

The *first lesson* for me was my sojourn in the hospital in January. I was not able to physically be with you and feel your loving concern, but I did feel the prayers and that

sustained me. Even though we look around us and no one is there the experience of the surgery taught me that *God is always near*. We simply have to tune in our hearts and our minds to His presence daily in our lives. He has not left us alone!

Not being able to attend church was another devastating blow we had to endure this past year. There were times when seeing Joe & Portia lead the songs was very emotional for me and made me weepy. I missed everyone so much! From the comments many of you said to me these past couple of weeks at church—you felt the same. God showed us in the story of Paul in prison to stay faithful even when all seems like lost loneliness and despair. “After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. When he received these orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks. About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God,” (Acts 16:23-25) tells us to rejoice and worship our God in ALL circumstances—even having

to watch church services on the Internet for over a year! Perhaps that was *lesson two*.

Then, the sheer weight of having all of our Christian reading and learning and growing squarely on our own shoulders for this long was a bit of a learning curve as well. We were used to a Sunday School lesson and a Wednesday night lesson to sort of spur us on throughout the week. Now, this past year if we didn't motivate ourselves to read and study nobody else would. How did you do? I definitely could have done better. *Lesson three*.

I hope that all of us will come out of this terrible year having learned more about our relationship with God and having grown in our faith.

God loves us so much and wants the best for us. The best for us is remaining fresh, loving, strong, and rooted in Him and in His word.

Around the middle of March we heard that Tommy Daniel, a former Forest Hill minister, passed away from a range of ailments, excluding COVID. His wife Lynne said his body just gave out. Tommy was here and spoke at our 50th reunion celebration in June of 2010. Kip and I were very close to Tommy & Lynne, and it grieves us very much that the world has to continue without Tommy in it.

Spring will come and so will happiness.

Hold on. Life will get warmer. —Anita Krizzan

Every spring is the only spring, a perpetual astonishment.
—Ellis Peters

Prisoners currently in our Ministry:

Jose Agosto, Michael Bell, Nathan Bernard, Terrance R. Boyd, Larry Duncan, Dean Dupont, Glen T. Evans Sr., Michaellyn Hutchins, Israel D. King, Christopher Konkel, Albert Lacy, Derrick Lartdale, Latrina Lewis, Chris Love, Scott Markel, Ralphonzo Martin, Bradley Mason, Thomas McCarthy Sr., Leon Napier, Lakiesha Phillips, Melvin Reardon Jr., Antonio Spates, Thomas E. Stephens, George Weaver, and Timothy Wilson. **Also, for those released**— Kenneth Anderson, Nicholas Bowers, Greg Breville, Tony Campbell, Alfred Cleveland, Leonardo Frazier, Emmanuel Gonzales, Willard Hall, Tyrell Havergne, Keith Hume, Mark Slayton, Jewell Trischler.

Please remember to pray for the people who are incarcerated. Pray that they will accept the help that God offers to all of us equally.

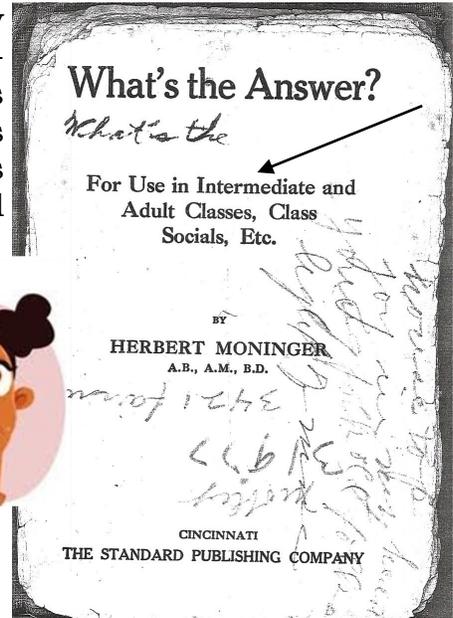


The answer to 'Problem One' is the number of apostles that were present at the ascension, multiplied by the number of the Egyptian plagues, plus one.

For Kids Only. . .

. . .Or maybe not. This is a book for teaching Sunday School from 1908. This was used by Kip's grandmother to teach his father and other youngsters. This was found amongst some archived items Kip had from his father's sister when she passed away several years ago. I hereby challenge you to do this puzzler. I will publish the correct answer in the May Talk. C'mon, don't wimp out!

How smart were the folks from 1908 if this was what they 'cut their teeth on' in Sunday School?



first *first*

PROBLEM ONE
Pro.

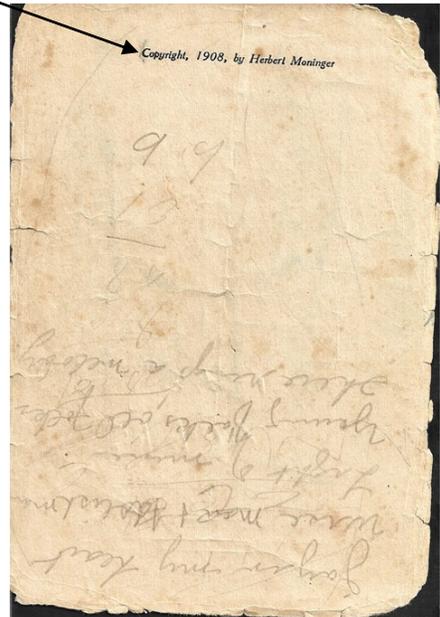
Charley met his friend James upon the street and told him that he had been fishing. "How many fish did you catch?" asked James. Charley replied: "If to the number of the books of the Old Testament, you add the number of the books of the New Testament; multiply that by the number of apostles that were present at the transfiguration; divide by the number of the books written by Luke; subtract the number of times the Israelites marched around Jericho; multiply by the number of pieces of silver Judas received for betraying Christ; divide by the number of spies Moses sent into Canaan; add the number of letters in the name of the city in which a man climbed up a tree to see Christ; divide by the number of apostles that were called the 'sons of thunder,' the answer will be the number of fish I caught."

Check elsewhere in the Talk for a hint as to the correct answer.

What's the Answer?

*7
7
-
8
3
18
19
13
86
328
180
113
32
11
91
3
2
86
39
15
20
22*

*15
13
19
13*



Answer in the MAY TALK; so write down your answer and keep it handy.

Recipe . . .

Better Sloppy Joes

- 1 pound 85% lean ground beef
- ½ teaspoon baking soda
- ½ teaspoon salt, 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 2 teaspoons oil
- ½ onion, finely chopped
- 2 minced cloves garlic
- 2 teaspoons paprika
- ¼ teaspoon red pepper flakes
- 2 teaspoons brown sugar
- ¼ cup tomato paste
- 1/3 cup ketchup
- 1 tablespoon red wine vinegar
- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- ½ teaspoon corn starch



Put the uncooked ground beef into a bowl. With 1 tablespoon water and the baking soda make a slurry and mix into ground beef. Set aside.

In pan fry onions with the oil until brown. Now into pan add: garlic, paprika, red pepper flakes, 1/8 teaspoon salt, brown sugar, tomato paste. Cook for about three minutes until entire mixture turns rust colored.

Add ground beef and ½ teaspoon salt to pan, cook until all browned. Add ketchup, Worcestershire, and red wine vinegar. With 1 tablespoon water and cornstarch make a slurry and add to pan. Mix. Cook until well blended. Mixture should not be runny. Add to a toasted hamburger bun and enjoy!

I got this from the America's Test Kitchen show. I tried it, and it knocked our socks off! It is so much better than the packet or the canned stuff. It seems like a lot of ingredients—but *it is worth it.*

—Pam

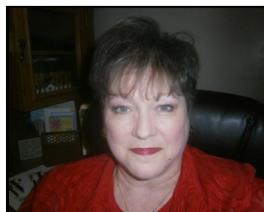
Birthdays . . .

May

- 6-Sean Brown, Jr.
- 25-Matthew Hale
- 27-Bettye Campbell
- 27-Artiesha Dawson
- 29-Tim Smith



Birthdays instructions: Wake up happy because God has granted you another year, pray thanking God for all your blessings, feel like you are floating all day long, come home at the end of the day and do no work at all, eat your favorite meal and way too much birthday cake.



Hope you enjoyed the Talk this time and please do the Problem One on the FKO page. Kip & I did it weeks ago to see if we could, but

then when it came Talk time we'd lost the answer; so, we had to do it all over again. But it was fun. If you have something for the May Talk the deadline will be Sunday, April 25th. You can hand your article to me at church, put it in my box outside the church office, snail mail it to me at home, or email me at: pthorn50@roadrunner.com. Thanks!

NOTE: This will be the last mailing home for the Talk. Beginning May 2nd pick up the Talk at the building.

—Pam

Good News . . .

Jesus answered: 'I am the Way and the Truth and the Life.'

John 14:6



☞Our mission: to love like Jesus, to serve like Jesus and to teach others to do the same☞