

# f Talk



a newsletter for the Forest Hill Church of Christ since 1974

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There was not a Talk issued for March this year, because Kip and I traveled to Cork, Ireland, to see our granddaughter Sage who is finishing up her year there at the University College Cork.



We had visited Ireland before, but we did not go to Cork. This visit we stayed in a really lovely and quaint bed & breakfast where we were treated like honored guests. We visited Sage's



campus, of course, but we also went to the famous Blarney Castle—yes, the one where you are supposed to get the 'gift of gab' from kissing the 'blarney' stone. At Blarney there was an area called a 'stumpery.' As one might guess it is a garden created from old tree stumps and quite breath taking. We went to an Irish pub complete with Irish band and people two and

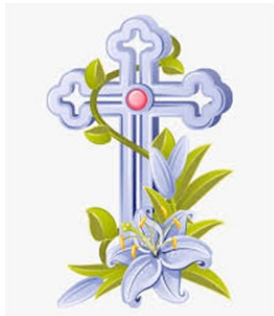
three deep at the bar. St. Fin Barre's Cathedral and enjoyed 'high carol of bells, a choir, roundings and a good walking and saw functioning) and candy shop in Cork—own candy.



On Sunday we went to dral (church of Ireland) church' along with a absolutely beautiful sursermon. We did lots of Cork's old market (still stopped in at the oldest still producing all their

It was a treat from start to finish and our Sage was a wonderful hostess. We remember that people are essentially the same the world over. They want pride in where they live and a comfortable, peaceful existence.

—pt



## Happy Easter April 9th!

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



Please do plan to join us on Sunday morning, April 9<sup>th</sup> for a special Easter service. Invite your friends, family, anyone you want—to celebrate the good news that our Lord is risen and lives today.

Inside the Talk this month:

- \*lots of folks to pray for. .... p.2
- \*partnership with God .....p.3
- \*tribute to Ella. ....p.4
- \*how gun violence affects doctors. ....p.5
- \*monkey bread recipe. ....p.6

We have been experiencing more deaths within our church family. We had four funerals in January. Now, Kelly West & Ella Hopkins have passed on. Our sympathy goes out to the families of Kelly and Ella. We know that your heart is aching with the loss of your loved one, and we pray that God can surround you with His Holy Spirit to provide comfort and relief from the pain. God bless you.



With the announcement that Matt and his family will be leaving us in August there are many things that need to be considered and taken care of. We will have to become self-sufficient again. So if you are asked to do something or contribute to some effort *please say yes*. With all of us working our particular gifts we can see our way through this.



PLEASE REMEMBER THESE PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS: The people we mentioned in the February Talk who had lost loved ones I am sure are still hurting: Shirley Moorer's family, Clara Killings' husband, Pat Aaron's mother, Leroy Stewart's family. In March we lost Kelly West & Ella Hopkins; so remember their

families where the pain is especially fresh. Pray for Derwood & Jeannene as he has been in the hospital for COVID. Pray for Matt & his family as they prepare for a big move. Pray for the Forest Hill Church family that our old friends will return, and we will grow stronger in our service to the Almighty. Pray for those who might be sick for a few days or weeks because as we age any illness ought not to be ignored. Stay well, dear friends, in body and soul.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TODAY! Please stay, eat, share your ideas for our future and how to implement them. You are part of the family and we need to hear everyone's voice today.

# Of interest...

## PARTNERSHIP

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God did not create human beings to be automatons. We have minds and hearts given to us by the Almighty. I am sure He expects us to use them with His care and guidance.

When you see a robin this spring hopping around in your yard notice what it does not do. It does not hop to the ground and just stand there looking, waiting for a worm to poke its head up. He/she goes sniffing and searching for worms just under the ground, and when one is found there is a struggle to pull it up. Since both mom and dad robin are caring for the babies it is an all day-light job. Baby robins must eat every two to three hours.

God creates a robin with all its abilities, but the bird itself must fly down from the nest and gather food. The robin must search and dig. Without that cooperation by the robin—it will die. You see, it is a partnership between God and the robin.

God takes care of us in so many ways that we don't usually recognize. The Bible reassures us: "Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows." Luke 12:7

The implication, of course, is that if God cares for sparrows as well as He does how much more does He care and nurture His children. In this passage Jesus is encouraging His disciples by telling them not to fear those who can kill the body and then can do no more; rather fear the one who, after death, can throw you into hell. (vs. 4f)

So what do we have to be afraid of? We should be bold and fearless because God has our back, to put it in the popular vernacular. The future may seem uncertain for us and perhaps a bit scary. But turn around and see how God has brought us along thus far. What does God want for us? He wants us to be a strong, loving church family spreading His great news wherever we go to whom ever we meet.

We can do that. Haven't we been doing that for decades now? Sure, we are aging but so what? That does not mean we are incapable. In fact, it means we are better equipped than ever because of our years of experience. The future may not look as we expect it to, but we will always love and belong to God—Yes? And remember, He has promised us He will 'never leave us.' (Heb. 13:5)

Ask God for a special out pouring of the Holy Spirit on each of us and on our church family. Then, *relax*.



Ella Hopkins  
4/1/28-3/27/23

## Food For Thought

Why does everyone obey laws that are made by elected officials for stop signs, red lights and seat belts when we navigate our vehicles through the streets and highways in order to get us where we need to go safely? Is it to prevent injury and death?

Do you think that if we all obeyed elected officials and the laws they have drafted and got vaccinated and wore a mask that we could prevent illness and death and shorten the length of this pandemic?

That leads me to ask this question to the person who is well enough but still desires not to get vaccinated or wear a mask: would you disobey traffic laws and make your family ride with you in your vehicle through red lights and stop signs taking the risk of injury or death?

Love, Ella Hopkins, 12/22

I WILL ESPECIALLY MISS Ella's pearls of wisdom she shared with us in the Talk. Ella was not someone who put down her Christian work because she got older. In fact, as you can see, this article was last December! What a great example for all of us. Never give up! Never stop sharing Christ! Never stop until your last breath. Thank you, Ella, we'll take it from here and use your great example to guide us.

Velma, our hearts, hugs, and love go out to you as you attempt to maneuver your life without your mom. May God bless you always.

"We see a hearse; we think sorrow. We see a grave; we think despair. We hear of a death; we think of a loss. Not so in heaven. When heaven sees a breathless body, it sees the vacated cocoon & the liberated butterfly."

— Max Lucado

**Prisoners currently in our Ministry:** Jose Agosto, Michael Bell, Terrance R. Boyd, Larry Duncan, Glen T. Evans Sr., Michaellyn Hutchins, 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, Dean Dupont, Leonardo Frazier, Emmanuel Gonzales, Willard Hall, Tyrell Havergne, Keith Hume, Israel D. King, Juan Rentas, Mark Slayton, Jewell Trischler.



It must be awful losing your freedom. Please pray for those who are locked up that God will open their hearts and allow their souls to soar.

"We are all prisoners but some of us are in cells with windows and some without."

— Khalil Gibran





## F.Y.I Healthspot...

This is only part of an article on gun violence from the perspective of health care workers. **It is worthy of your attention.** You can find it at: [time.com/6263461/doctors-gun-violence-us-trauma](https://time.com/6263461/doctors-gun-violence-us-trauma).

“Firearm injury is a public health epidemic that’s so prevalent Americans have become desensitized to its impact. Annually we see over 48,000 deaths and at least two to three non-fatal injuries per death. Over recent years, there has been a significant rise in the number of mass casualty shootings. In fact, in America, firearm violence is the *number one cause of death in children*. It is not car crashes. It is not poisoning. It is not cancer. It is bullet-related injury. These tragedies often dominate the news cycle, but the sheer number of them, over 100 so far this year, has led to a normalization and desensitization to their horror. Just as concerning is the silent epidemic of firearm violence happening across the country where rarely a day goes by without someone being shot, whether it’s an unintentional injury, or assault, or someone that dies by suicide. Additionally, the way that firearm violence is portrayed in media, particularly in movies and video games, also contributes to desensitization. These forms of entertainment often depict firearms and violence in an exciting or glamorous way, which can make it seem less shocking when we encounter them in real life.

These factors promulgate a culture where firearm violence starts to feel normal, or even unavoidable. Healthcare workers, systems, and organizations are stepping up in a real way to be a part of the solution to this complex public health problem. Earlier this year Kaiser Permanente established a Center for Gun Violence Research and Education committing \$25 million to the firearm violence prevention. Working on the frontline of firearm violence feels different. It’s neither glamorous nor exciting: for medics, law enforcement officers, healthcare professionals, survivors, and, too often, family of victims. Firearm violence is traumatizing. And we’ve had enough!”

## For Kids Only...

### Proverbs 15:1

Every word in the Bible verse quoted below is contained within the group of letters. Words can be found in a straight line horizontally, vertically, or diagonally. They may be read either forward or backward. Shorter words may be found more than once.

“A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.”

— Proverbs 15:1

Why are these guys so happy? Because they know God loves them and will be with them always!



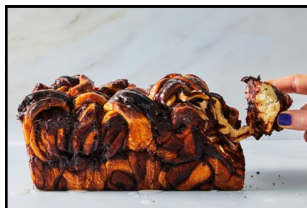
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# Recipe...

## Babka Monkey Bread

Babka is a braided sweet bread and cake hybrid, often adapted from rich and buttery brioche dough.

½ cup heavy cream  
½ teaspoon vanilla  
1 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips  
1/3 cup Dutch process dark cocoa powder  
¼ teaspoon cinnamon  
½ cup plus 2 tablespoons sugar  
2 cans Pillsbury brand biscuits  
All purpose flour for dusting  
1 tablespoon water



Preheat oven to 375°F. Grease a standard loaf pan with butter. In a small saucepan over medium heat, bring cream and vanilla to a simmer and cook, stirring occasionally, until warmed through, 4 to 5 minutes.

Into a medium heatproof bowl, mix chips, cocoa powder, cinnamon, and ½ cup sugar. Pour cream mixture over chocolate mixture and whisk until smooth. Let cool about 10 minutes.

On a lightly floured surface, roll each biscuit from 1 can to a rectangle 9" long by 5" wide. Spread chocolate mixture over top in a thin layer. Starting at the long end, roll into a log. Cut log in half cross-wise, then each piece in half lengthwise. Twist each piece by turning one half left and one half right (some chocolate mixture should be visible). Tuck edges under to create a sphere and arrange in prepared pan (12 should snugly fit into bottom). Repeat with remaining dough and chocolate mixture, arranging on top in a second layer.

Bake bread, tenting with foil if it's browning too quickly, until golden brown and no longer raw in the center, 55 minutes to 1 hour.

Meanwhile, in a small saucepan, bring water and remaining 2 tablespoons sugar to a simmer. Brush babka with sugar syrup. Let cool completely before serving.

# Birthdays...

## May

6-Sean Brown  
25-Matt Hale  
27-Bettye Campbell  
27-Artiesha Dawson  
29-Tim Smith



A very happy birthday wish to all of you with birthdays next month!

THANKS to anyone who contributed to the *Talk!* If you would like to share something for next month please get it to me no later than Sunday evening April 30<sup>th</sup>. You may hand it 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](mailto:pthorn50@roadrunner.com).



~Pam

# Good News...

For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for Him who died for them and was raised again.

II Cor.5:14-15

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