

FH

May God grant
you a quiet, cool,
shady spot to enjoy the
rest of the summer.

Happy
August
everyone!



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

Talk



a newsletter for the Forest Hill Church of Christ since 1974

Vol. 48 Issue 6

August 2023



YHWH

by Sandra Thurman



here was a moment when Moses had the nerve to ask God what his name is. God was gracious enough to answer, and the name He gave is recorded in the original Hebrew as “YHWH.” Over time we have added an “a” and an “e” to get ‘Yahweh,’ probably because we have a preference for vowels. But scholars and rabbis have noted that the letters YHWH represent breathing sounds or aspirated consonants. When pronounced without intervening vowels it actually sounds like breathing. YH for inhaling and WH for exhaling.

So a baby’s first cry, his first breath speaks the name of God; a deep sigh calls his name, or a groan or gasp that is too heavy for mere words; even an atheist would speak His name unaware that their very breath gives constant acknowledgment to God; likewise, a person when they leave this earth with their very last breath when God’s name is no longer filling their lungs.

So when I can’t utter anything else my cry is calling out His name. Being alive means I am speaking His name constantly. Is it heard the loudest when I am the quietest? In sadness we breathe heavy sighs, in joy our lungs feel like they could burst. In fear we have to hold our breath and have to be told to breathe slowly to help us calm down. When we are about to do something hard we take a deep breath to find our courage. When I think about it breathing IS giving Him praise. Even in the hardest moments of our lives

This is so beautiful and it fills me with emotion every time I grasp the thought: God chose to give Himself a name that *we can’t help even but speak every moment* that we are alive. All of us, always, everywhere, waking, sleeping, breathing with the name of God always on our lips. How beautiful is that? His breath fills our lungs. His name is in our lungs. Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!

AMEN.

Inside the Talk this month:

*even atheists breathe God's name.....	p.1
*those to pray over and care for.....	p.2
*'holy glue'.....	p.3
*Prison ministry.....	p.4
*let's talk about Happiness, FYI.....	p.5
*yummy Mexican dish, Recípe.....	p.6

384 students will have a smile on their faces come school time this year. Thank you for contributing \$2,280 to the backpack effort! Your encouraging notes that will be included inside the backpacks will also let the kids know their thought about and loved.

Thank you again to the men who are pinch-hitting in the pulpit for the time being. We know it is a tremendous effort but believe God will guide you. May God bless your effort!



Please be kind enough to keep these people in your mind as you pray this month: Velma Hopkins has moved to Sandusky, Ohio, this was a difficult transition for Velma; Derwood & Jeannene as he continues to heal from his broken ribs; Matt & Alison in their new home and new job in Scranton; the West family as

they recuperate at home; Jamie Smith at the death of her mother recently; Joe & Portia Mason as they travel this week and for Joe's health; Lillie Glen for the several deaths and illnesses she's had in her family; all the children returning to school this month and next; the prisoners on our Prison Ministry list.

Breathe the sweetness that hovers in August.

— Denise Levertov

The quiet August noon has come; A slumberous silence fills the sky; The winds are still, the trees are dumb, In glassy sleep the waters lie.

— William Cullen Bryant

Welcome, August! A bounty of beautiful beginnings and never ending blessings. Hey, you, the reader, may all your dreams come true this month.


Anonymous

Remember how much your individual effort counts while we are searching for a minister. Pray that we will find the person God has selected for us. Be willing to jump in and do whatever it is you see needs doing. Your unique God given talents are needed very much right now. Let's bloom like a strong beautiful flower while we wait on God!

OF INTEREST...

HOLY GLUE

© by pam thornton

 omething holds us together, binds us to each other, binds us to earth and to the Creator of all things—God. It is almost like this thing is glue. Even though the bond is invisible to our eyes it is surely there and *very strong*. Christians have learned over the years about this ‘glue.’ We have learned how to recognize it, how to nurture it, how to inspire it in others.

We have learned that it means *everything* to us.

The bond of this ‘glue’ given by God is very strong and the longer we acknowledge it the stronger it grows—between us, between God and us, between us and the earth.

This ‘holy glue’ is, of course **love**. In I Corinthians 13 we learn the qualities of love, and we learn its partners are faith and hope but love stands alone as the greatest. “And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.” I Cor. 13:13 Earlier in that passage we read that love perseveres and never fails. Don’t you love it when God says ‘never’. That is the end of the discussion! Love will *never* fail. We may fail. Our way of living may fail. But love—nope—it is going on and on and on.

That means that if life ends love doesn’t. So when our hearts are breaking so badly at the death of a special person in our lives recognize that love isn’t failing; it is that the glue is

being stretched a bit. The love that we shared with that person does not die. The love that person put in our hearts stays. It is just like how Jesus loves us and we know it.

It is like glue. Even though the other end of the glue is in heaven we are still bound by its qualities. God tells us in I John 4:8 that He is love. God is love. No wonder it lasts forever and never fails! In so far as we are able to imitate that, we can give and receive love.

It is not necessarily an easy task. First we have to give up self in favor of the other person. Mark 12:31 tells us plainly that we are to love our neighbor as our self. When Jesus is praying in Gethsemane he says in Matthew 26:38, “my soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death.” Not easy. Then, in the next verse we are told that Jesus fell with his face to the ground and begged God, “if possible take this cup from me.” When did you ever pray completely prostrate on the ground, face in the dirt? Fortunately the bond of love kicked in for Jesus and he said, “Yet not as I will but as you will.” v.39

Love. That’s why Jesus could do that. The bond that he had with Yahweh, and the knowledge that He had been sent to earth for this very purpose allowed him to put aside his human self and go to the cross.

Jesus loved you and me that much. We had not even been born or thought about but Jesus loved us. He loves us still.

Love perseveres. Love never fails. Glued.

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.



If things had been just a little different, if we had met the wrong people as friends, if our mom or dad hadn't been there—what might have happened to us? Pray for those behind the wall that they will experience God's love mightily.



Although August be waning fast
Twill be upon us still a bit
Do not think the sun-filled days will last
For on our doorstep autumn's breath does sit

So enjoy the days for what they are
Don't gaze too longingly at that star
For days and nights of golden hue
Are in the very next month due.

Famous stuff/people born in August:
Francis Scott Key, author of *The Star Spangled Banner*, born 8/1/1779.

The first atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, Japan, 8/6/1945.

Missouri became the 24th state, 8/10/1821

Lucy Stone, women's rights leader born 8/13/1818.

American frontiersman, Davy Crockett born 8/17/1786.

Hawaii became the 50th state, 8/21/1950.

Holidays in August you have already missed (don't kick yourself too hard because Monday the 7th is National Sea Serpent Day and Particularly Preposterous Packaging Day then Tuesday the 8th is National Frozen Custard Day and Wear Your Mother's Jewelry Day—woo-hoo, party!)

August 1—Respect for Parents Day, National Raspberry Cream Pie Day, Spider-Man Day.

August 2—National Coloring Book Day, National Ice Cream Sandwich Day, National Computer-Aided Design Day, Take a Penny/Leave a Penny Day.

FOR KIDS ONLY...

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

Flora and Fauna of Isaiah 34-35

Every word in the list 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.

BEASTS	OWLS
BLOSSOM	RAMS
BRAMBLES	RAVEN
BULLS	REEDS
CORMORANT	ROSE
DRAGONS	RUSHES
GOATS	SATYR
GRASS	TREE
LAMBS	UNICORNS
LEAF	VINE
LION	VULTURES
NETTLES	

F.Y.I. HEALTHSPOT...

HAPPINESS

When I was researching this topic I found (big shocker) that scientists could not quantitatively support any one idea about happiness. Some things seemed to work and some of the things they thought would did not work for the long haul.

Right off the bat a big salary and climbing the corporate ladder is not the gateway to happiness. Studiously avoiding negative emotions is also a wrong idea. In fact, suppressing negative emotions may make them worse and could lead to a risk of early death.

Also, city living isn't necessarily good for inner peace. The constant noise and upheaval of construction can translate into anxiety and sleeplessness. Having tons of free time is another misleading element. Too much discretionary time can make you less happy. Instead turn 'free time' into exercising, group activities, pursuing a hobby, or studying a new language. Connect with people. Offer a bright happy attitude. Buying expensive things will only make you happy for an instant. Concentrate on spending money on experiences rather than material goods.

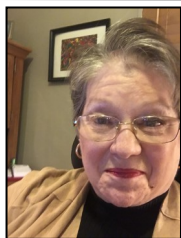
And, of course, giving feels immeasurably better than receiving. If you spend your time helping your fellow sojourners on this earth and try to spread God's joy with everyone you meet the happiness you feel will be well worth the effort you expended.

Knowing that you are God's and He is yours is enough happiness for anyone. —Pt

RECIPE...

MEXICAN CASSEROLE

2 large cans of chicken, shredded (or Rotisserie chicken or large amount of leftover chicken)
 ½ cup chopped onion
 3 teaspoons crushed Red Pepper flakes
 ½ teaspoon garlic salt
 7 ounce can mild diced green chilies, drained
 ½ teaspoon each salt & pepper
 8 ounces Velveeta cheese, shredded
 9 ounces bag Doritos, crushed (use in 2 parts)
 3 cans chicken soup
 1 can Rotelle tomatoes, not drained
 (Mix soup and tomatoes together then add mixture to casserole dish.
 Add into a greased 13x9-inch pan in order given. When it comes to the Doritos add only half at first and then end the dish topping it with Doritos. Cook in 350°F oven for approximately 30 minutes. Serve with Spanish rice, beans, and/or salad.



Hey! Hope you are having a good summer. If you would like to contribute to the September Talk we'd love to hear from you. Just write it up in any fashion and snail mail it to me at home, put it in my box outside the church office, hand it to me at church, or email me at pthorn50@roadrunner.com. Due date will be Sunday evening, August 27th.



BIRTHDAYS...

SEPTEMBER

1-Bethany Harrison
 3-Brian Redding
 12-Tom Hawkins
 17-Herb Aaron
 19-Darlene Hawkins
 21-Derwood Smith
 23-Mary Managan-Edwards
 25-Karla Martin



Hope your birthday is a happy one, and may you have many more!



Summertime. It was a song. It was a season. I wondered if that season would ever live inside of me.

—Benjamin Alire Sáenz,
Last Night I Sang to the Monster

Deep summer is when laziness finds respectability.

—Sam Keen

GOOD NEWS...

O God, you are my God, earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you. My body longs for you. In a dry and weary land where there is no water. I have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power and your glory. Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you.

Psalms 63: 1-3

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