



VILLAGE NEWS

STUARTS DRAFT RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

Stuarts Draft, Virginia

“Keeping active in mind, body, and spirit for the time of your life.”

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Tidings of Great Joy

By Betty Luzadder

Shepherds taking care of their sheep;
Darkness of night surrounded them.

Suddenly an angel appeared
in the light of the glory of God.

The shepherds were afraid.
The angel told them to fear not;
he had tidings of great joy.

A savior Christ Jesus had been born
in the town of Bethlehem.

This will be a sign to you;
you will find the babe in a manger—
There appeared with the angel,
a heavenly host praising God.

Deciding to obey the angel message
from God, they departed with haste
with their flock,

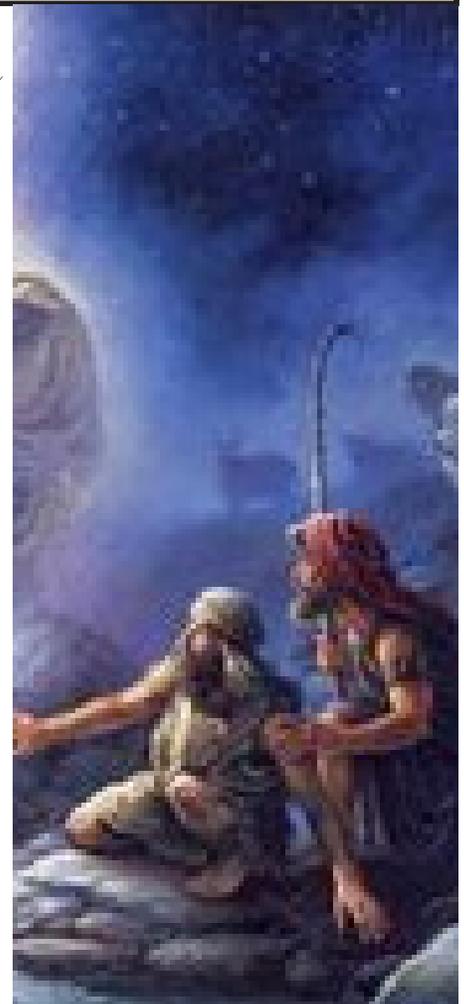
following the light to where they
found the babe in a manger.

As they returned, they shared
the angel message, glorifying God.

Let us be like the shepherds
and share the good tidings.

May the Christ enter the thoughts
of all mankind —

Peace, joy and goodwill.



WORDS OF WISDOM AND KNOWLEDGE

“Though our feelings come and go, God’s love for us does not.”

C. S. Lewis

Reminiscing

A Palette of Memories



By Bunny Stein

Unlike so many other times, Christmas always registers many memories of tastes, smells, and sounds. The distinct smell of roasted turkey and dressing, spicy pumpkin pie, and bread baking; the aroma of scented candles in the windows, the smell of a fresh cut pine Christmas tree and the smell and the taste of tangerines that only show up at Christmas time with chocolate drops tied up in a cloth bag to hang on the fireplace.

I remember the tastes of tangy apple cider and tiny grape soda, a thing of the past, which was a flavorful grapey drink in a tiny 4 oz. bottle. Also I can still taste the fruity flavor of Tru Ade orange and Tru Ade grape drinks that were so popular in the 40s and 50s.

I remember the sweet taste of orange sherbet combined with vanilla ice cream on a stick called dreamcicles. I think they are still on the market today.

I remember the taste of fried chicken, the kind my mom used to make. It was seasoned with salt and pepper, dredged in flour and fried in a pan until crispy brown. The best part came when she's take the chicken out of the pan, add flour to the drippings and stir until it would get toasty brown. Then she'd add water and stir until it got thick and

bubbly and dark brown. What a companion to lumpy mashed potatoes! I don't know anyone who fries chicken like that anymore.

I remember how much I hated the taste of canned milk and still do to this day, except to make pumpkin and sweet potato pies. YUM!

I remember the taste of chocolatey Tootsie Rolls, and peanut butter Mary Janes, candy cigarettes, peppermint sticks, Grandma's homemade ice cream and sugar cookies, Aunt Goldie's cake with butterscotch icing, thumb print cookies and fried bread. Ovaltine, and fresh milk with real cream from our own cows was always tasty.

Remember the taste of margarine that you had to add the color packet to and mix before using. Some of these things we can still buy today, some we can't.

I also remember the taste of lipstick even though I rarely use it now, the taste of salt water on my lips after coming in out of the ocean waves, and the ghastly taste of castor oil when I was sick as a child.

Tastes are memories of the palette. Like the trill of a songbird, a favorite Christmas hymn or the whiff of a certain wildflower can trigger fond memories. Certain tastes when tested, again impart a certain nostalgia. Though tastes change over a lifetime, the palette of memories is always there.

A BLESSED CHRISTMAS TO ALL!



It's Christmas Time

By Matilda Lee



We all look forward to Christmas. Or do we? I think so. Why not? There are so many wonderful things to see and do.

There are lots of colored lights decorating so many things. Some folks go all out, setting up a make-believe fairyland. Yes, it is amazing, the interesting things arranged all around us capturing our attention. Truly, it is lovely!

Then there are the displays of various items in the stores that lure us. Oh, so hard to choose the right gift for each person on our list! The need to consider our purse helps us decide. This one time of year we stretch it or pay later.

Entertainment is a large part of celebrating. Family love brings us together. How happy we all are! There are also those who, for various reasons, are not able to participate in any of this or only in a limited way.

Oh, yes, the tree! Some are lavishly decorated. They look so beautiful! Again, there are those who have only a modest one or none at all.

Christmas is a time for secrets and expectancy. It is also for celebrating the time Jesus came. Isn't there a balance somewhere? Should we each ask the Lord to help us know this balance? We want to keep the peace of Jesus in Christmas. He is our Lord and Savior.

Lord, You know I love You. Teach me more about Your sacrificial love and how to worship You....at Christmas time and its excitement....about You! Thank-you.



“Whence Christmas”

By Norman Raiford

As Edgar Bergen’s Mortimer Snerd would say, “Who’d a thunk it?” Who’d a thunk controversies have surrounded the celebration of Christmas from the “git-go”? Among the controversies have been *when* to celebrate, *if* to celebrate, and *how* to celebrate Christmas.

“Didn’t Christmas begin with the birth of our Lord Jesus on December 25 in the year 1?” You ask. Actually, no one knows for certain the day, the month or the year of Jesus’ birth. There were no birth certificates in Jesus’ time. Some scholars think Jesus was born between 4 and 6 BC — do you see the irony in that? That would mean Christ was born “Before Christ!” Regardless, the traditional use of BC and AD — (BC for before Christ, Anno Domini the Latin for “in the year of our Lord”) points to the centrality of Jesus in history. Regarding December, careful research suggests Jesus was born in the spring, not in the dead of winter when shepherds were unlikely to have sheep outside in the cold. Regarding the 25th of December, some church historians think as Christianity spread the church decided to replace pagan celebrations held around winter solstice (December 21st) with the Mass of Christ (the Christ Mass, the origins of the term Christmas). Apparently, it was Constantine, the Roman Empire’s first Christian emperor, who in the

AD 330s decided December 25 should be the official day to celebrate Christmas. A few years later Roman Catholic Pope Julius I also put his stamp of approval on the 25th of December. However, to this day Orthodox and Coptic Christians celebrate Christmas on January 7 having refused to go along with Catholic Pope Gregory XIII’s modernizing the calendar in 1582. Adding to the confusion, Armenian Apostolic Christians celebrate Christmas on January 6. Regardless of the day, month, or year, Christianity clearly counts Christmas second only to Easter as the holiest of holy days — hence the term holiday.

Controversy extended to whether Christmas should be celebrated at all. In the 1640s English Puritans led by Oliver Cromwell objected to anything Catholic, and therefore outlawed observing both Christmas and Easter as idolatrous and pagan! Puritan colonists in New England followed suit punishing anyone caught celebrating Christmas. Shortly after Cromwell’s death, England reinstated Christmas, and New England Puritans begrudgingly followed suit. Showing how far the pendulum had swung by 1823, Clement Morre, published “Twas the Night before Christmas.” While this may be the best known American poem, there is now controversy over whether he was the real author! Regardless, celebrating Christmas became so traditional and expected that in 1870 Congress declared December 25 a Federal holiday thereby giving government workers the day off. In 1939 President Franklin D. Roosevelt stirred up another Christmas controversy when he moved Thanksgiving up a week (November had five Thursdays that year) to extend the Christmas holiday shopping season, a means of furthering recovery from

the Great Depression. Since then merchants seem to have hijacked Christmas, which has become the busiest and most profitable shopping season of the year. No doubt millions today have little or no understanding of the religious origins of Christmas but think of it solely in terms of buying gifts and leaving cookies and milk for that funny looking guy in the red suit. This commercializing and secularizing of Christmas leaves many of us devout Christians shaking our heads in dismay.

Putting controversies aside, Christmas is a time to remember the role of Jesus not just in our faith tradition but also in world history. French Emperor Napoleon lamented more books would be written about Jesus than himself! No wonder, for Napoleon took lives of any who defied him; Jesus came to give life eternal to any who accepted Him. During this Christmas season, may we remember Jesus reigns eternally while the likes of Napoleon reign but for a moment. “Who’d a thunk it?” Why Christians the world around, of course!



HISTORY BLOOPERS

And now for more history “Bloopers” and creative spelling from students’ essays, courtesy of teacher and author Richard Lederer.

Martin Luther was nailed to the church door at Wittenberg for selling papal indulgences. He died a horrible death, being excommunicated by the pope’s bull.

There's a Mouse in the House

By Karen Moore



Below you will find a short poem which I composed early one morning as I was participating in my morning constitutional. A small gray mouse slinked by the bathroom door and stopped and stared at me. Bold little thing! I began to sing "I'll Fly Away O Glory" very loud, hoping it would scare him away! Didn't faze him a bit.

When I told Ken about our intruder he laughed. "It's just a little mouse". Then the tiny invader actually peeped out from behind the piano and observed us with great concern, as we sat on the sofa. Guess he wanted to hear what his outcome would be.

There's a mouse in the house
Said Karen to Ken
"No worries", said he,
"He has no kith and kin."

"I don't care," replied Karen
"I don't want him near,
He slinks along the walls
Looks at me with a sneer!"

"I'll consider it," said Ken
"He's probably just cold,
He's looking for shelter,
Truth be told."

"Fine," replied Karen,
"It's just as you said,
Enjoy his company,
He can sleep on YOUR
side of the bed!"

OUR JOB

By Ruth Y. Martin

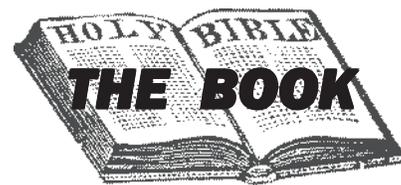
It has been a busy week. I felt wiped out. What would the Lord have for me this morning? (I was feeling a bit sorry for myself.) One of the scriptures for the morning was Ephesians 2:10. This is what I read: "He creates each of us by Christ Jesus to join Him in the work He does, the good work He has gotten ready for us to do, work we had better be doing."

"Well, thanks a lot, Lord. Not exactly what I had in mind," a challenge for my day. The evening's reading was from Matthew 22:34-46. Here Jesus is asked what the greatest commandment is and He replies with those familiar words, "Love the Lord your God with all your passion and prayer and intelligence. This is the most important, the first on any list. Bet there is a second to set alongside it. 'Love others as well as you love yourself.' These two commands are pegs, everything in God's Law and the Prophets hangs from them."

The morning's devotion was to do the work that God had gotten ready for me. The evening's writer spelled out what that work was. I have one job! Love God, and love others. It's that simple and that difficult!

Another day's reading expanded the idea of this impossible job given to us. As we spend time with God and experience His love, we become channels of His love to others. Going back to the thought of Ephesians 2:10, the Lord has work for us. Love God. Spend time with Him. As we experience His love in our lives, we can be channels of his love to others. We have none in ourselves.

Thinking Inside



By Clair Hershey

"God Will Never Forsake You!"

In 1 Samuel 12:22 God's word says: "For the Lord will not forsake His people, for His great name's sake, because it has pleased the Lord to make you a people for Himself." (ESV)

Many people live in fear that they may be abandoned. Some may feel like this because people have let them down, while others just don't live with a deep sense of belonging.

But here is a wonderful promise from the LORD. He has purposed in His heart to 'not' abandon us because of His own great name's sake.

It doesn't depend on us or our good deeds....it all depends on HIM!

This verse says that God is pleased to make you a part of His family and for that reason and that reason alone, He has promised to stay close by always.

Why do you think we are so valuable to Him? The reality is not about us! — It is about His great love for us, and there is nothing we can do to deserve it.

Sometimes we struggle, sometimes we have doubts, sometimes we have fears, but it is in those times (IF we belong to HIM,) we must never forget that our Heavenly Father was pleased to make us a part of HIS family....forever!!

Come let us
Adore
Him

Our New World War II Related Friends

By James Q. Salter

On Thursday, October 26 Jim and Lydia Dixon of Champagne, Illinois were our special guests. Briefly stated, here is the World War II connection. Jim's uncle was my squadron commander in the Air Force in World War II. Our B-29 crew witnessed the horrific incident when Squadron Commander Lt. Col. Elmer Dixon and the crew with whom he was flying that fateful night were shot down in flames and were all killed. That incident was related as part of a Memorial Day, 2016 feature by reporter Tracy Moyer in The News Leader. The article was posted on the internet. Air Force Major Nathan Dever, husband of one of Lt. Col. Dixon's nieces, saw the article and emailed reported Moyer, who then called me.

It has been a real pleasure getting acquainted with relatives of Lt. Col. Dixon and helping them in a small way to bring closure to the death of a wonderful patriot and genuine war hero. For fifty years I would not talk or write about World War II. Since 1995 I have written (and talked) a lot about it. Once again, in an attempt to portray the horrors of war, here is exactly what happened that night. Many enemy searchlights picked out one of our planes off to our right as we approached our target for dropping our mines. First, an anti-aircraft shell exploded near the plane. Unbelievably, an enemy fighter braved his own anti-aircraft fire and swooped from high above as he just pulverized the bomber. Our pilot told our gunners to hold their fire as the fighter was out of range. It seemed strange that the fighter had his lights on. The crew of our lead plane that night reported that the flight deck (forward cabin) was on fire when the plane started falling. As the huge bomber fell, the cross caused by the intersection of the many searchlights from different directions (the official record states at least twenty-five) kept getting lower and lower all the way down. There was a huge explosion and ball of fire as the plane hit the surface. The official report states that there were multiple explosions after the crash. This was probably from the mines the plane still had aboard when it crashed. All of the men aboard the plane were officially listed as missing in action. We knew, however, that they were all killed. No parachutes came out of that plane.

Two nephews and one niece of Lt. Col. Elmer Dixon had visited us previously. We enjoyed meeting more of the Dixon family and showing them around our community. We also enjoyed sharing mementos and pictures with the Dixons.

Footnote: *When our writings are posted on the Internet, (as all of the articles in The Village News), we realize they are available to readers all over the world. Unintended consequences can be most rewarding.*

Bible Study Group Supports Woodworking Project

By Bill Phillips

The weekly Bible Study group, through a free-will offering, has been supporting the Grippis Farm community and the efforts of the Grassroots Heroes in their Zambia project. Originally the money was used to buy cinder blocks to help build their school and other buildings. In 2016 these donations totaled \$1242. Through September, 2017, contributions have totaled \$1182. Many other residents directly support the Grassroots Heroes so this community is linked to Zambia.

As reported in the November Village News, Dr. Sauder reported to us on his visit to the area. In discussions with Leland Brennehan, the Bible Study group decided to support the carpentry project in the town of Sewer. The estimated cost of this project is \$500 which includes tools and supplies. After this project is funded, we will look for other areas to support.

The Bible Study meets on Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. in the Chapel. We are currently nearing the end of our study of Isaiah. We've learned a lot about Jewish history and the workings of God. We'd love to have you come join us.

The Weather Report

A Look Back at October

By Bill Phillips

We had another dry month. The remnants of Hurricane Nate came on October 8 but my rain gauge had a cobweb built inside it (from lack of use and rain). I resorted to putting out a large can and measured 0.6 inches. That was close anyway. Removing the cobweb, I only had 2.04 inches for the remaining days or about 2 2/3 inches for the month.

Temperatures were cool in the morning with several days of frost but mostly comfortable during the days. The winds returned at the end of the month with two winds of 31 and 36 m.p.h. on October 28 and 30.

December weather will be colder and the chances of snow increase. I always have mixed feelings about a white Christmas. Instead, let us wish for a calm and worshipful Christmas.

GOD, the Super Chemist and Engineer

By Joe Savoy

My wife, Beverlee, had passed away in March of 2014, so my older son invited me to accompany them on a week's vacation at a small lake in Maine. The weather was great — sunny with temperatures in the low eighties. I spent most of my time on the screened-in porch, while the rest of the gang were frolicking around at the waterfront or out on the lake in boats.

With plenty of time on my hands, it wasn't long before my thoughts drifted to this article. My mind suggested that a good case could be made to prove God's superiority as a chemist and engineer. God, in my imagination, must have made a list of criteria which the human body must meet overall. They were: it must have a central control (brain); stand erect (bones); must have arms and legs with joints for lifting and walking; must be able to see, hear, and talk; all organs to be created and maintained by chemistry; all organs must be inside the body; the body totally enwrapped with a waterproof material (skin); and most of all, be a free thinker! This list would be used to acquaint His angels with what He would be talking about.

The human body is so complex that I decided to concentrate on the organ that interfaces with the brain and the outside world. That organ is the skin. As complex as the skin is, it cannot compare to the com-

plexity of the brain which runs the entire body system.

The skin is the largest organ of the body. It stretches from the top of the head to the end of the fingers and toes, and all the areas in between. It takes about twenty square feet of tissue to cover an adult body. It is a seamless organ (as I have never found a zipper or a velcro system to close it). When the body is born, it measures about twenty inches and grows to about six feet in eighteen years. When it is born, it already has its seamless skin. During this eighteen year growth period, the relationship between the brain and the skin remains the same as in adulthood as everything grows accordingly.

For many of us, including myself, who may not know or remember, the skin is a two-layered organ with multiple layers in between them. Associated within these skin layers are millions upon millions of minute structures and mechanisms of surprising intricacy — microscopic oil wells and sweat glands, waterproofing systems. It is laced with minute blood vessels, nerve fibers, receptor organs for sensations of touch, pain, heat and cold to be transmitted to the brain via a nerve/electrical system.

The following explains how the brain interacts with the skin when the body is hot, as taken from one of my medical books verbatim: (Eccrine sweat is little more than extremely diluted salt water, clear and watery in appearance. Its function is to help the body to dissipate excessive internal heat. The skin and

its sweating mechanisms are parts of a vital heat regulating system that keeps us from burning up alive. A thermostat-like center in the brain sends out flashing nerve order when we are too hot. The heart pumps more blood to the skin. One square inch of skin contains about fifteen feet of minute blood vessels. These dilate to carry more blood when we need to lose heat, constrict when we need to conserve warmth. Very little heat is radiated from skin surfaces. But by far the most efficient means of body cooling is evaporation of water—sweat. This process goes on even though the skin may seem to be dry.

The skin's connections reach the innermost parts of the body. Some symptoms that are visible in the skin do not arise primarily in the skin but in other organs. Thus, the skin is an "early warning system" for something more serious. Some things the skin warns about are "false alarms" with no connections to disease, but to emotions that exist between the skin and the brain.)

Communication between the skin and the brain is very fast! It may seem to be instantaneous, but it is not. . .close maybe.

You have to admit that God outdid Himself by designing such a compact miniature human body whose operation is awesome! So awesome, in fact, that there are 7.6 billion of us running around on planet earth today.

Therefore, I say that He is, by far, the greatest super chemist and engineer in the universe, bar none....period!!!

VILLAGE NEWS

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“SPORTS CHAT”

Ron Mentus
RLM Athletics

The annual holiday of Thanksgiving has come and gone. But the true spirit of Thanksgiving — should — take place in our lives on a daily basis. Those of us who delight in the world of sports sometimes forget that life isn't all about wins, losses or championships.

Our November 9 Sports Chat meeting drew a season high of 16 as we tossed about various topics which have surfaced. Much of our attention (and dismay) was centered around the lack of respect shown by various professional athletes before, during and after games. It apparently has eluded the thinking of too many of these overpaid, spoiled and seemingly ignorant individuals, to stop for a brief moment — and think! Maybe even try to think about setting good examples for a change.

Like: Think about the privilege it is to be paid for performing their God-given skills in games which they once played as youngsters for the pure sport of it. Like: Think about the thousands of people who dish out part of their hard-earned salaries to watch them play a game....and not be subjected to displays of childish, churlish or juve-

nile behavior. Like: Think about the trust the team owners (who pay their absurd salaries) have placed in them to perform those skills consistent with the ideals of honor and fair play in pursuit of a championship. Like: Think about where they are now, where they have come from, and the influence they have on kids who try to emulate them.

In other words, how about think to be — THANKFUL!

Our astute sports chatters touched on why much of this stuff prevails today. One, that it is not limited to the sports world; the overall lack of respect we have for each other, the dearth of moral character and lack of civility all have become almost commonplace in our daily lives. Two, a great part of today's problems can be traced to the break up of families and family life. Too many children lack mothers or fathers and grow up without sound fundamental values upon which to base their lives. When they reach some level of maturity (questionable) they still don't know right from wrong.

So, it's up to us (who know better) to be thankful to God that He loves all of us, despite our shortcomings....and pray for those who don't know HOW to be thankful. Yes, Thanksgiving is tomorrow, and far more than that — it's forever!

It really doesn't matter who wins or loses.

Please join us for our next **Sports Chat** meeting on **Thursday, December 14**, in the usual **Friendship Room**, from **10:00-11:00 a.m.** Plenty of prime seating available at our discounted winter rates. Be a part of the “**Biggest Hit in Augusta County!**” Have your say — and even a bit more.



By Marge Piatt

I recently made this recipe and was pleased with the way it turned out and thought I would share it. It makes enough for six servings and it freezes well.

Stuffed Cabbage Soup

Brown together:

- 1 ½ lb. ground sirloin or ground round
- 1 large onion

Add:

- 1 lb. pkg. cole slaw mix with cabbage and carrots. Cook for 5 minutes.

Add:

- 2 cans beef broth
- 28 ounce can crushed tomatoes and light puree
- 14 ounces of water
- ¼ cup brown sugar
- 1 tbsp. lemon juice
- Salt to taste
- 1 cup long grain rice

Cover and simmer for 45 minutes.



**And remember:
Don't BE a character — SHOW some!!!**

SDRC Veterans Enjoy Special Programs

By James Q. Salter



On Friday, November 10 eighteen SDRC veterans and their guests enjoyed the fourth annual Veterans Appreciation Banquet at the Cornerstone Church of Augusta. As usual, the folks at Cornerstone sponsored a Veterans Day banquet and program second to none. From the standpoint of purpose, organization, quality of the food, service, entertainment and the main speaker, it would be difficult to top this banquet.

In the opening remarks pastor Greg Mayo made everyone feel welcome. In fact, he set the tone for a genuine feeling of camaraderie and expectancy on the part of veterans and their guests. After the opening prayer by Pastor David Sandy the Fishburne Military School presented the colors in a most impressive ceremony. The audience of about four hundred stood in stunned silence as they exhibited their pride and respect for the colors and what they represent.



Photo Courtesy - Nancy Phillips

With their wonderful harmony, the a cappella chorus of VMI called Men in Gray sang our National Anthem. This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by the Boy Scouts of America Troup #25. This was followed by the entertainment of the evening. The Men in Gray, a cappella singers, sang America the Beautiful, Shenandoah, Amazing Grace and a rousing Armed Forces Medley. As the song was sung for each branch of the armed services, veterans proudly stood and sang their song with the guest singers.

Pastor Mayo then introduced the guest speaker of the evening — Colonel (Ret) Daryl Jones, U.S. Air Force. Col. Jones introduced his wife, Martha, also a

retired military veteran, and gave a most inspiring message. His message was humorous at times as Col. Jones drew upon his experience as a fighter pilot. He gave numerous scriptural references to make serious points of service and sacrifice. Col. Jones really made veterans feel appreciated. He received a most impressive standing ovation.

After a closing prayer the colors were retired in a solemn, inspiring ceremony by the Fishburne Military School.

We SDRC veterans and our guests were proud that the Stuarts Draft Retirement Community was the first corporate sponsor recognized by Pastor Mayo. We also thank our Community for furnishing transportation for this memorable event.

Guy K. Stump Elementary School Honors Veterans

On Tuesday, November 14 the faculty and students of Guy K. Stump Elementary School honored veterans with a special Veterans Day Salute. First, the veterans and their guests enjoyed a delicious breakfast in the school cafeteria. Everyone then assembled for the special program. Principal Shawn Baska extended a warm and heartfelt welcome as he recognized each veteran by name.

Kylie Coyner led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance and our National Anthem. Principal Baska introduced the guest speaker—Chaplain Joe McGugan, US Air Force, Retired. In his remarks Chaplain McGugan pointed out that next year our nation will commemorate the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I. November 11 was first called Armistice Day and later changed to Veterans Day. The students seemed to enjoy a brief history lesson as Chaplain McGugan displayed several mementos of World War I.

Under the capable leadership of Music Director Jennifer Smith the second graders enthusiastically performed a patriotic medley of tunes including We Will Not Forget, On Veterans Day, You are Our Heroes, Oh, I love America, The Heart of America. The audience joined the second graders in singing God Bless America at the end of the program.

Principal Shawn Baska then asked all veterans to stand as he closed the event with a sincere statement of appreciation and gratitude to the veterans and all who helped with the program. The veterans and visitors left the school with a warm feeling that the faculty and students of Guy K. Stump Elementary School really appreciate veterans for their service to our country.

JOBS

By Dub Beynon

I was born in November of 1931. Now don't run and get your calculator, or whatever you use to do your arithmetic, because I'll just tell you that makes me 86 years old. I usually add "That makes me older than dirt," but many of the nicest folks you would ever want to meet living here at the SDRC call me "Sonny". When I was born, the country was just beginning to come out of the Great Depression and I remember back then my grandfather used to walk to the corner grocery store and he could get a beef roast for 15 cents and as a bonus, the butcher would give him a hunk of bologna to eat on the way home. Obviously, money was scarce everywhere and everyone was glad to have any kind of job they could get. That got me to thinking about some of the many jobs I've had in my life.

I guess my first job was a newspaper route after school. When I was a little older, I got a fun job as a soda jerk at the local gathering place for the school age kids. My next job was sweeping the floor at J.J. Newberry, a 5 & 10 cent store.

After high school graduation, I entered the U.S. Army and I held that job for a little past 30 years. I got married and had a child during that time, and I soon found out that there was too much month at the end of the money, so I got a second job as a door-to-door salesman selling sterling silver, crystal and china.

Then an opportunity to be a paid choir director presented itself, and I did that for a few years, too.

I also spent quite a few years teaching school age children how to play the trumpet. I remember our car at that time was a little white Corvair and I would drive it to go to

students' homes to give them their lessons. Between lessons, I would eat my dinner in my car, and I began to call it the "White Diner."

Additionally, during this time of my life, I played my trumpet at dance gigs with my musical combo I named the "Musical Knights." And on Saturdays, I spent the day teaching trumpet at the local high school.

After I retired from the service in 1979 I got my real estate license and I was an agent until I was diagnosed with prostate cancer in 1986. I told my wife, Mickey, that I would no longer work and we would spend as much time together as we could.

Thinking back over my life, I realize I've had a lot of different jobs that allowed me to take care of myself and my family. I am grateful for all those different jobs I had! I know for sure that growing up in the early 1930s taught me the value of a dollar.

I'm certain the older residents here at SDRC could tell you some stories about that time in their lives, too. It would be interesting to hear their stories.

I would be remiss if I did not give my wife, Mickey, the credit she most richly deserves for doing such a good job spending so many hours making a home for us all while I was out of the house working at various jobs in my life.

Editor's Note: *Dub states he had the following in his files and does not remember where it originated. He says he wanted to leave us with a smile.*

1. My first job was working in an **orange juice factory**, but I got canned. Couldn't concentrate.
2. Then I worked in the woods as a **lumberjack**, but just couldn't hack it, so they gave me the axe.
3. After that, I tried being a **tailor**, but wasn't suited for it — mainly

because it was a sew-sew job.

4. Next, I tried working in a **muffler factory**, but that was too exhausting.
5. Then, tried being a **chef** — figured it would add a little spice to my life, but just didn't have the thyme.
6. Next, I attempted being a **deli worker**, but any way I sliced it.... couldn't cut the mustard.
7. My best job was a **musician**, but eventually found I wasn't noteworthy.
8. I studied a long time to become a **doctor**, but didn't have any patience.
9. Next, was a job in a **shoe factory**, tried hard but just didn't fit in.
10. I became a professional **fisherman**, but discovered I couldn't live on my net income.
11. Managed to get a good job working for a **pool maintenance** company, but the work was just too draining.
12. So then I got a job in a **work-out center**, but they said I wasn't fit for the job.
13. After many years of trying to find steady work, I finally got a job as a **historian** — until I realized there was no future in it.
14. My last job was working in **Starbucks**, but had to quit because it was the same old grind.
15. SO, I TRIED **RETIREMENT** AND I FOUND I'M PERFECT FOR THE JOB!

A REMINDER

It's that time of year again. Let's remember our kitchen crew with our gifts. Give your cash contribution to Cindy, Delma, or Kathy in the office.

Strange Christmas Traditions Around the World

By Nancy Phillips

RUSSIA and UKRAINE — Christmas is celebrated on the 7th of January because the Orthodox Church uses the old Julian calendar. They fast for up to 39 days until Christmas Eve (January 6th) when the first evening star appears in the sky. That is the cue to begin a twelve course supper in honor of each of the apostles.

IRELAND — It's a tradition to leave mince pies and a bottle of Guinness out for a Santa Snack.

CZECH REPUBLIC — Single women have a custom to find out if they'll be wed in the coming year. They stand with their backs to the house door and throw a shoe over their left shoulder. If it lands with the heel towards the door she will be single for another year, but if the toe points to the door she must start making wedding plans.

SPAIN, PORTUGAL and ITALY — They set up models of Bethlehem with the figures of Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus.

SWEDEN — For the last 40 years one town (Gavle) has erected a huge straw goat and townspeople dress up as Santa or elves to try to get past the guards and burn the goat. It has survived to Christmas Eve only ten times.

VENEZUELA — The roads are closed in the capitol, Caracas, on Christmas Eve so people can roller skate to Mass.

NORWAY — There's an ancient belief witches will appear on Christmas Eve to steal brooms and ride in the sky. The people hide their brooms and men fire their rifles to keep the witches away.

HOLLAND — They celebrate the holiday on December 6th awaiting the arrival of Santa and his helper Black Pete who come by way of steamer to leave candy and nuts in the wooden shoes the children have filled with hay and sugar for Black Pete's horse.

GERMANY — On December 6th eve the children put out a shoe or a boat and St. Nicholas fills them with candies and small toys if they have been good. . . or a golden birch branch representing a spanking.

JAPAN — For many there the traditional Christmas dinner is fried chicken from KFC and this is so popular reservations have to be made ahead of time.

GREENLAND — Christmas dinner consists of

"kiviak" which is raw flesh of an auk placed in seal skin until rotted.

SLOVAKIA — The head of the family throws a spoonful of their traditional dish (like a bread pudding) up to the ceiling. The more it sticks to the ceiling, the better the crops will be in the coming new year.

Thanks to the website, todayifoundout.com



Operation Pill Bottle - Update

By Bill Phillips

Operation Pill Bottle was started several months ago by SDRC to support the clinic at Grippis Farm in Zambia, Africa. This is the village sponsored by Grassroots Heroes and headed by Leland and Tanya Brenneman. Empty pill bottles were to be used by the clinic to dispense medicine. The Waynesboro Lions Club also joined this project and donation boxes were placed in the Chapel and the lobby outside Kathy's office. (Glasses may also be donated in the same boxes.)

Unfortunately, the supply of bottles exceeded the ability to deliver to Africa so a new outlet was sought. Pill bottles are now being sent to Matthew 25 Ministry in Cincinnati, Ohio. The Waynesboro Lions Club is underwriting the mailing costs and in October we mailed 240 cleaned and washed bottles to them. By the time you read this, at least one other shipment will have been sent. This new organization is a Christian based outlet supporting worthy causes in many parts of the world. They ship cargo containers of donated supplies.

Thanks to all who have been donating their empty bottles. We now can also use aspirin, vitamin, etc. bottles. My job is to remove any labels and glue and then wash the bottles inside and out. They are then packed in gallon zip lock bags and mailed. The cleaning process requires some coordination with my wife on the use of the sink and dish strainer but so far we are doing okay.



His Birth



A large star-shaped word search puzzle. The star is formed by two overlapping triangles. The top triangle points downwards, and the bottom triangle points upwards. The word search grid is composed of letters arranged in rows within the star's outline. The letters are as follows:

Top point: F

Row 1: Z R S

Row 2: R M A R Y

Row 3: N Y B N H E H

Row 4: H R O T K L P E K

Row 5: D R Y V X I W V R N H

Left point: P M C S H E P H E R D S N V W O O B A B Y D U V I

Row 6: Y C S U T S U G U A R C Q I D E M M A N U E L

Row 7: A F Y N M J J B Z J E X A T L G I F T S X

Row 8: W I S E M E N D Q N W H M A O F S R H

Row 9: N R A T S H V A S L P H Y N G P E

Row 10: A H R U R E L E W O Z M N J J

Row 11: J O S E P H T M A N G E R

Row 12: C A N G E L S T H D O S P

Row 13: F V W S M A I S K S F D C A B

Row 14: Y I U Q R R C W H D K J I L D V E

Row 15: P O W S M O R E F E Z D Y A H I W V G

Row 16: K R T I V G W L Y K L P J Y I R S N E V S

Row 17: F E V Y X O J K S M K R J Q E G F F Q G I F J

Row 18: U M Z G P A S G L M L O P E K I S C A K N S E A T

Row 19: V N N F N A N X J

Row 20: T V T L N T T

Row 21: X T F X V

Row 22: J G P

Bottom point: E



Can You Find These Words?

- | | | | |
|--------------|--------|-----------|---------|
| Angels | Gold | Nativity | Virgin |
| Augustus | Herod | Noel | Wisemen |
| Baby | Inn | Peace | |
| Bethlehem | Jesus | Promise | |
| Elisabeth | Joseph | Savior | |
| Emmanuel | Manger | Shepherds | |
| Frankincense | Mary | Star | |
| Gifts | Myrrh | Swaddling | |



Reminders



Please check the Shenandoah Terrace bulletin board for changes in these announcements.

WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday Morning Services:

Meadows (1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th & 5th) 9:30 a.m.
The Cottage 10:15 a.m.

Sunday Evening Services:

Shenandoah Terrace 7:00 p.m.

Holy Communion:

Shenandoah Terrace 3rd Sunday

Sunday Services Speakers: 1st Sunday - Karen Moore, 2nd Sunday - Carol Byrd, 3rd Sunday - Communion, 4th Sunday - Waynesboro Mennonite Church, 5th Sunday - To Be Announced

CHAPLAIN'S SERVICES

Our chaplain, Mrs. Karen Moore, is available at 540-490-2492.

SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE DECEMBER SCHEDULE

December 2 Frank Byers
December 9 Bob Clouse
December 16 The Burkholder Family
December 23 Kimball Swanson
December 30 To Be Announced

SDRC COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

The **Community Breakfast** will take place the **first Monday** of each month at **9:30 a.m.**, **Skyline Terrace, second floor**. Bring your favorite breakfast snack, join your neighbors in fellowship and hear all the latest Village news.

BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study is held each **Tuesday** morning in the **Shenandoah Chapel** at **10:00 a.m.**

HYMN SING

Hymn Sing is at **11:30 a.m.** on **Tuesdays** at **The Mead**. Ruth Martin, Pianist.

JULIET LUNCHEON (For the gals)

The **second Wednesday** of each month join the ladies for lunch at **local restaurants** in the area. The van leaves from the **Friendship Room** at **11:00 a.m.**

T.W.I.G.S.

The **Writers Interest Group for Seniors** will meet the **first Wednesday of each month** in the **Chapel** at **1:00 p.m., first floor**. T.W.I.G.S. is for everyone who likes to write poetry, memoirs, short stories, fiction, reminiscences. Or, come if you simply want to listen to interesting work created by T.W.I.G.S. members.

PRAYER TIME

Those interested in joining a weekly **prayer time** are welcome to meet each **Wednesday afternoon** in the **Chapel** from **3:30 p.m. until 4:45 p.m.**

SDRC COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP

The **Community Fellowship** is held the **second Thursday** of each month at **9:30 a.m.** Come and enjoy fresh donuts and fellowship in the **Skyline Dining Room**.

SPORTS CHAT

Join Ron Mentus the **second Thursday** of the month at **10:00 a.m.** in the **Friendship Room** for a lively discussion of sports currently in the news.

ROMEO CLUB (For the guys)

Breakfast out every **third Friday** of each month. The van will pick you up at **8:00 a.m.** at the **Friendship Room** to go to a restaurant of choice.

AEROBICS CLASS

The **first Monday** of the month only, there will be **no exercise class**. Every other **Monday, Wednesday** and **Friday** there will be exercise class at **9:45 a.m.**, **third floor, Skyline Terrace**.

CROQUET

Croquet is discontinued for the winter and will resume in the spring.

RECYCLE PROGRAM Participation is voluntary.
VILLA RESIDENTS: Use the recycle center located behind Skyline Terrace or place separated items on roadside on designated trash pickup days.

TERRACE RESIDENTS: Use the indoor recycling center bins located in storage room on first floor of Skyline Terrace.

Merry Christmas

www.stuartsdraftretirement.com

Please Send Articles or Inquiries to Editor:

James Q. Salter — 540-946-8066

Marjorie Piatt, Co-Editor — ampiatt53@gmail.com

571-296-5996 or contact one of the regular feature writers:

Clair Hershey, Bunny Stein, and Nancy Phillips.

All material must be turned in to James Salter or to Marge Piatt by the 12th of each month for publication the following month. Use and editing of all submissions are the prerogative of the editorial staff.