



Church Bulletin Bloopers

Why are things always funnier in church? I remember as a child being in church while my mama was singing in the choir – perfect place to watch the congregation. Any little thing that happened was uncontrollably funny, I guess because you weren't supposed to laugh in church. I can still see the glare I would get if I was talking or laughing during the service.

One Sunday I was sitting with a friend and we were playing tic-tac-toe on the back of the church bulletin. Not really paying attention to the sermon, but not being disruptive either. It was one of those old clear Bic pens with a cap to let you know what color the pen ink is inside. Well, he bit down way too hard, blue ink went all over his face and I lost it. I also lost the privilege of leaving my room that Sunday afternoon, too.

The absolute funniest was about 25 years ago, right here in our little Cruger Independent Methodist Church. We were having a revival and a man who had been to our church showed up after a month or two of absence. Well, he was gray haired the last time we saw him, but now his hair was as black as any hair I have ever see – it was quite a shock. He was a rather portly gentleman, so he sat alone on the back pew with his arms stretched out comfortably ready to enjoy

the sermon. Not long after that, we heard a gentle sound of a slight snore, nothing too disturbing. However, it began to get louder and louder until I thought he was going to suck the pew cushions right up his nose. We were all hysterical by this time. Nobody knew what to do, so one of the ushers stepped back and tapped him on the shoulder to awaken him. It didn't work. The usher had to practically shake him and was telling him he just had to wake up! To this day, all of the church members who were there will laugh out loud when we reminisce about that night.

Someone sent me some Church Bulletin Bloopers that have actually appeared in church bulletins. I would imagine a few chuckles ensued.

*The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.

*Ladies: Don't forget the Rummage Sale. It is a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

*Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our community. Smile at someone who is hard to love. Say "Hell" to someone who doesn't care much about you.

*For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

*Next Thursday there will

be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

*A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.

*Scouts are saving aluminum can, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.

*The ladies of the church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

*This evening at 7:00 p.m., there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the church. Bring a blanket and be prepared to sin.

*Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7:00 p.m. Please use the back door.

*Weight Watchers will meet at 7:00 p.m. at the First Presbyterian church. Please use the large double doors at the side entrance.

Hope you enjoy this week's dip recipes. Thanks for reading.

CORN DIP

1 dry pkg. Ranch salad dressing mix
2 (11 oz.) cans Mexicorn, drained
½ cup mayonnaise
1 (8 oz.) sour cream
2 (8 oz.) pkg. Colby/Monterey Jack cheese
Fritos or Tostitos Scoops
Mix the dressing mix, mayonnaise, and sour cream. Add drained corn and cheese; stir to mix. Refrigerate for several hours or overnight before serving.

BLT DIP

½ lb. bacon, cooked and crumbled*
2 cans petite diced tomatoes, drained
1 (8 oz.) sour cream
1 cup mayonnaise
1 (8 oz.) cream cheese, softened

Mix cream cheese, mayonnaise and sour cream, chill. About an hour before serving add bacon. Just before serving, salt and pepper drained tomatoes and add. Serve with your favorite chips or crackers.

*This is an original recipe. I have modified the fried bacon to use the prepared packaged bacon. One – two packages according to your love

of bacon!

BUFFALO CHICKEN DIP

2 (10 oz.) cans chunk chicken, drained
2 (8 oz.) pkg. cream cheese, softened
1 cup Ranch dressing
¾ cup buffalo wing sauce
1 ½ cups shredded Cheddar cheese
Mix all ingredients until

smooth; transfer to a baking dish. Bake at 375 degrees or until hot and bubbly. Serve with tortilla chips or Scoops.
*Lee Ann Fleming is a Holmes County native, food columnist and has garnered fame for her recipes featured in the film, *The Help*. Fleming can be reached at lafkitchen@hughes.net.



Shadows and Quicksands

By Laura MacCorkle

"O God, The Eternal All, help me to know that all things are shadows, but Thou art substance, all things are quicksands, but Thou art mountain, all things are shifting, but Thou art anchor, all things are ignorance, but Thou art wisdom." -From The Valley of Vision: A Collection of Puritan Prayers & Devotions; Arthur G. Bennett, Editor

I've felt distant from God lately. Not again.

Spending time in shadows and quicksands can do that to you. They can make you feel stuck and lost. But I don't always know that I'm in a place that's shifting or that I'm spending my time on that which is ignorant ... until I start paying attention to my condition.

Recently a friend mentioned how Scripture was coming alive to her and how she was enjoying digging in the Word during this season of life. When I heard that, I realized that I hadn't felt that way in quite a while. Where is the joy of my salvation? And why am I not finding peace in my life right now?

The answers are this: I've been spending my time elsewhere and not looking to Jesus, the author and perfecter of my faith. I've been

in places, in activities and in thoughts that are keeping me away from the light and keeping me mired in entanglements.

But what are or easily can be the shadows and quicksands in my life? I'll start with what I can see: family, home, job, hobbies, possessions, church, ministry opportunities, social activities, volunteering, and so forth. And then there is that which is unseen: hopes, dreams, obsessions, idols, jealousies, insecurities, anxieties—to name just a few.

It is so easy to "live" and get "stuck" in these types of things. They suddenly become our whole world. And sometimes what are blessings or good things in our lives can quickly become something which we mishandle or view in unhealthy ways. Not everything is inherently wrong in and of itself. But it is how we approach what is in our lives, how we prioritize, and how our perspectives can keep us away from knowing and focusing on what the puritan prayer so eloquently stated:

But Thou art substance ... but Thou art mountain ... but Thou art anchor ... but Thou art wisdom.

It's a slippery slope into shadows and quicksands, but God's Word gives me footholds and that which I can cling to when my feet give way.

I think David must have felt the same way as he struggled in his faith walk, to:

"Show me your ways, O LORD, teach me your paths; guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long ... Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in his ways. He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way ... For the sake of your name, O LORD, forgive my iniquity, though it is great. Who, then, is the man that fears the LORD? He will instruct him in the way chosen for him ... My eyes are ever on the LORD, for only he will release my feet from the snare (Psalm 25)."

So where is your focus today? Are you stuck in the quicksand of your career? Or

are you living in the shadows of whether or not your children will do well in school this year? Maybe you're mired in the drama of a relationship or you're lost in the dashing of a dream you've hoped would come true.

Remember, you don't have to stay in shadows and quicksands. You can be moved. And you can be delivered.

Intersecting Faith & Life: Take a piece of paper and draw a line down the middle of it. In the first column, list out the words that exemplify the very nature of God. And then in the second column, record what is going on in your life right now (people, situations, struggles, achievements, thoughts, dreams, etc.). Which column ultimately brings you more joy, more peace and more focus? And which column contains that which is leading you astray or blocking your humility and surrender to the Lord?

Further Reading:
Micah 6:8
Matthew 7:24-27
Hebrews 12:1-2

Honor students named at Mississippi College

Staff Report

The Mississippi College Office of Academic Affairs released the dean's and president's lists after the close of fall and spring semesters each academic year.

DEAN'S LIST

Terrianna Nelson of Lexington; and Qwinnetta Stokes of Pickens.

To be eligible for the Dean's List, a student must maintain a 3.5 grade point average, based on a 4.0 system. The student must take a full course load of at least 12 semester hours of undergraduate credit with all academic courses impacting their grade point average.

PRESIDENT'S LIST

Hallie Westbrook of Pickens.

To be eligible for the President's List, a student must maintain a 4.0 grade point average, based on a 4.0 system. The student must take a full course load of at least 12 semester hours of undergraduate credit with all academic courses impacting their grade point average.

11 a.m. and at 5 p.m.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH DURANT

Mississippi Lottery Corporation announces December transfer to the state

Staff Report

The Mississippi Lottery Corporation (MLC) completed its December transfer of \$9,828,078.61 in net proceeds to the Lottery Proceeds Fund in the Mississippi State Treasury. This brings the total net proceeds for Fiscal Year 2021 to \$51,453,200.15. The MLC year-to-date number includes a financial adjustment of \$76,400 from Fiscal Year 2020.