

More Personal Reflections

By Freddie Stamm

We are so very blessed! I'm thankful for the churches and organizations that have the Food Pantry, the grocery giveaways, and the free meals to help the homeless, the poor, and the hungry.

I have been hearing of lost people being saved in recent weeks in worship services in our area. Praise the Lord! There have been other answered prayers, like help for people who were the victims of fires.

At times I feel like I'm economically challenged, financially challenged! Hey, did I just invent a new phrase, a new saying?! Probably not. Some of the things that have happened to me in the past few months, since December. An electric pole was blown down, but it was fixed without any real problems. Then there was dealing

with the January snowstorms when my insurance agent needed to see me. She had a paper for me to sign (but had to keep rescheduling). Somehow I lost a keyring. That brought on some anxiety.

God helps those who help themselves. This is a teaching that is brought out in Acts chapter 12. Peter was put in prison. First of all, the Lord helped Peter. Then later on in the chapter, Peter helped himself.

I want to share something with you that I heard from a minister. It has to do with the border and immigration. Some Christian charities and churches send missionaries to any number of third world countries. They share the gospel, try to reach the lost, and help the poor and those dealing with addictions. These same people (immigrants)

are crossing our borders and coming to America. As I understand this minister, he said that "why not let these people come on into America and the missionaries can minister to them here!" It's just a thought, an observation. Of course we know that criminal aliens (illegals) need to be punished for their crimes.

I need to add one more thing concerning things that have happened to me. Around February 15 to 17, I had some furnace problems, lack of heat. It was fixed on Monday the 17th, and I'm so very thankful for the help I've received.

I'll leave you with this. I believe there are two things in life that I (or anyone) should have control over. That would be my attitude and my effort (in life). Grace, mercy, and peace.

An Encouraging Word

By Tom Cox



The Parable of the Sower

Jesus often used parables to teach people what the kingdom of God is like. A parable is an earthly story with a heavenly meaning, such as the stories of the prodigal son and the good Samaritan.

In Mark 4:1-20, we find the parable of the sower. This story is also recorded in the gospels of Matthew and Luke. Since this parable occurs multiple times in Scripture, it is obvious that the Lord really wants us to understand this teaching.

In Mark 4:3-8, Jesus says, "Listen! A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants, so that they did not bear grain. Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, some multiplying thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times."

Jesus went on to explain the

parable to his disciples. The seed is the word of God, and the different types of soil represent the different conditions of the human heart where that word is sown.

The first type of soil is the hard-beaten path. The seed cannot take root in a hard heart, so the devil quickly snatches it away. We all know people who have access to the Bible and have heard the gospel message, but they have allowed their hearts to become so hard and calloused toward God that they refuse to come to a saving faith in Jesus.

The second type of soil is rocky and shallow. The word takes root in their hearts, but when trouble comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. Some will accept Jesus as their Savior, but their faith has no depth. It is so superficial that they will fall away from the faith when the going gets tough.

The third type of soil is filled with thorns. This represents people who accept the gospel message, but their lives are so cluttered with worries and worldly desires that the word in their lives is eventually choked out, and they never produce the kind of fruit that

the Lord requires from his true followers.

The final kind of soil is fruitful. This depicts the human heart that accepts the word and allows it to grow and produce results for God's kingdom. This is the kind of heart that the Lord seeks.

Unlike the soil, we have the ability to choose what kind of heart we have. We must not allow our hearts to become hard, or shallow or cluttered. We must cultivate the kind of heart that allows the word of God to grow and produce the fruit of righteousness that God desires from us all. Therefore, we must heed the words of Proverbs 4:23 - "Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it."

A man once had this brief inscription put on his tombstone - 100x. It was a riddle to many who saw the tombstone, but for those of us who understand this parable, it is a reminder that we need to have the desire to produce as much as possible for God's kingdom.

For more inspirational writings by Tom Cox, go to www.jesustrek.wordpress.com.

Kinniconick Homemakers

By Donna Carver

The Kinniconick Homemakers met on Monday, the 10th, at Noon, at the home of Ruby Rayburn. Brenda Clark gave the blessing for the winter meal of potato soup, sandwiches, finger foods, and dessert.

After the meal, Leoma Rigdon, our president, called the meeting to order. Member recited the pledge to the flag.

Our devotional leader, Ruby Hord, read a poem "Love that Lasts", written by her husband's cousin. This poem talks of love for friends, families, and spouses, with true love for a spouse being hard to find. The greatest love of all can be found in God, who sent His Son to die for us. We are to love, as God loves us.

After the devotional, Donna Carver read the minutes of the last meeting, which were approved. Roll call was answered by members sharing their favorite Valentine gifts. Candy and flowers were the favorite responses. The treasury report was given, club dues

were paid, and "Coins for Change" were collected.

The meeting was then turned over to our president, who discussed the following new business:

- Motion was made to donate 50 dollars to Sabrina's Wings of Hope. All members approved the motion.

- Skills Day - March 26, at Fleming County Extension Office, from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Registration fee is \$4.00 and is due by March 17. Check in time is from 9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

In lieu of a lesson being taught this month, the club presidents were asked, by our county agent, Christa O'Cull, to discuss the Parliamentary Procedure for conducting meetings.

Every meeting should follow a standard order of business or have an agenda. The key elements of an agenda are:

- Call to Order - by club president.
- Opening Ceremonies - Pledge to flag, devotional, roll call.
- Reading of Minutes - by

the secretary, corrections, if any, are made, then minutes are approved.

- Reports of Officers - At this time, the secretary will provide the treasurer's report. Any other officer reports are given at this time.

- Reports of standing committees.
- Unfinished business.
- New Business.
- Announcements.
- Program.
- Adjournment.

After discussion of Parliamentary Procedures, our game leader, Ruby Rayburn, presented us with a paper plate and an ink pen. We were asked to put the plate on top of our head and draw a cupid. The winner was Leoma Rigdon.

The meeting was then adjourned, with plans to meet March 11, and the home of Ruby Rayburn at Noon. We thank Ruby's daughter, Marsha Wells, and Karen Edwards for the beautifully arranged table decorations and for making it possible for their mother to host us. We appreciate you very much!

15th annual Farm and Family Night

By Rachel Adkins

Maysville Community and Technical College is thrilled to announce the 15th annual Farm and Family Night, a unique opportunity for community

stock management, crop and grain production and insect and pest management," said Carrie Taylor, Associate Professor of Adult Agriculture at MCTC. "We will provide

sist with serving).

6:00 - 6:30 p.m. : Opening session and early door prize drawings.

6:45 - 7:30 p.m. : Concurrent sessions.

7:30 - 7:45 p.m. : Cook-



members to connect, learn and celebrate the vital role of agriculture in our region.

Presented in partnership with this year's title sponsor, Meadowview Regional Medical Center, the event is designed for local farm-based businesses, individuals interested in agriculture and horticulture, and anyone seeking to learn more about critical topics such as local food systems, livestock management, crop and grain production, and insect and pest management.

"As a teacher, I understand that we're always learning and sharing ideas to help each other better understand topics such as local food systems, live-

fun-filled children's sessions too. Many of our knowledgeable extension agents and other educators will offer promising solutions on a diversity of community-based topics such as healthcare and culinary ideas."

Some highlights of the event include educational presentations and workshops, fun-filled children's sessions, vendor and exhibitors and grand prizes and giveaways. In addition to door prizes throughout the evening, attendees will have the chance to win a 7 cu. ft. freezer from Rural King.

Schedule of Events:
4:30 - 6:00 p.m. : Dinner served (Prepared by Connie Jo's- FFA students as-

ies and milk break.

7:45 - 8:30 p.m. : Concurrent sessions.

8:45 - 9:00 p.m. : Closing and drawing for door prizes and grand prize.

Tickets and Admission: This event is free to attend. To secure a meal, please pick up tickets for you and your family at your local extension offices or the Maysville Campus Workforce Solutions office.

Join us for an evening of fun, food, and family-friendly education that promises to inspire and inform.

For more information, please call 606-301-6118. We look forward to seeing you on March 11 for Farm and Family Night at MCTC!

MCTC's PTA program shines with 100 percent pass rate

By Rachel Adkins

Maysville Community and Technical College is thrilled to announce the third consecutive year of a 100 percent pass rate in the Physical Therapy Assistant (PTA) program on the National Physical Therapy Examination (NPTE).

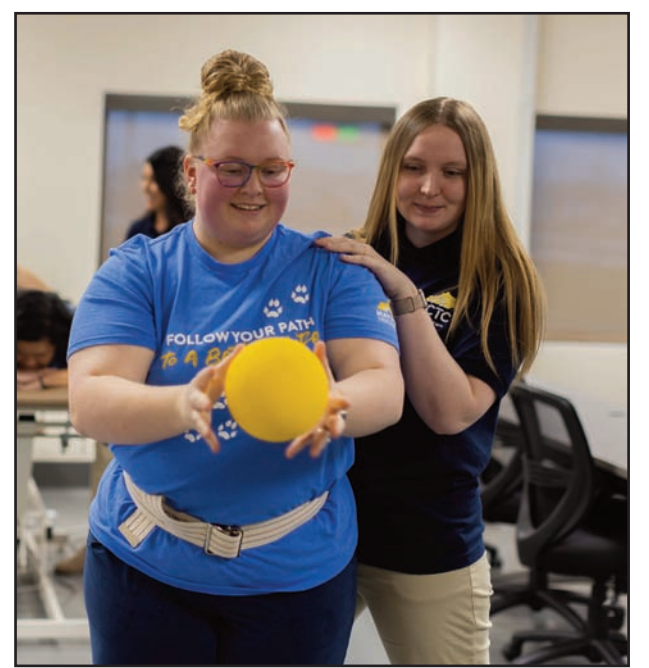
The two-year PTA program prepares individuals to become licensed clinicians who work under licensed physical therapists through classroom instruction, lab, and clinical practice. PTAs play a vital role in assisting physical therapists by providing treatments aimed at improving patient mobility, alleviating pain, and preventing or minimizing permanent physical disabilities.

With PTAs in high demand across various healthcare settings in the commonwealth, MCTC strives to prepare graduates to enter the workforce and provide essential healthcare services. When they enter the workforce, graduates become skilled professionals who meet the growing demand for physical therapy services.

"In the years that I have taught PTA students, I consistently find the students to be some of the most caring, genuine, hardworking, and fun people I know. I am privileged to play even a small role in their success and so grateful that I get to help them start a fulfilling career helping others," said Dr. Emily Norris, director of the PTA program at MCTC.

Achieving a 100 percent pass rate among PTA students is significant, as it reflects the program's high-quality education and the dedication of students and faculty. This accomplishment enhances the program's reputation, increases graduates' employability, and ensures the community receives care from highly competent professionals.

"I am intentional about re-



mind the students that a 100 percent pass rate three consecutive years is an amazing accomplishment, but that every amazing PT or PTA program has students who aren't successful on their first attempt, and that is okay. I want them to know that they are not a failure and prepare themselves for perseverance if they do find themselves needing to try a second attempt at the NPTE in the future," Dr. Norris remarked.

Ginger Clarke-Gallagher, associate vice president of health sciences at MCTC, shared her pride in the accomplishments of PTA faculty and students.

"I am incredibly proud of our PTA program and the outstanding accomplishments of our faculty and students! Their dedication, hard work, and commitment to excellence have led to remarkable achievements. This success is a testament to the quality of our program and the bright future of our graduates in the field of physical therapy," she said.

Ramsey Morris, a senior in the PTA program, discussed some of her experience in the program and looked toward

her future in taking the NPTE.

Starting in the second semester of her first year in the program, Ramsey and her classmates began a 4-week clinical rotation at varying PT settings to be able to work with real patients and diagnoses that they had learned about prior. In her eyes, these opportunities allow students to apply knowledge they have learned and add it to information from other clinicians.

As Ramsey has not taken the NPTE yet, she recalled advice that has been given to her by other students since her first semester. She plans to study, ensuring she truly understands the concepts she has learned thus far. Ramsey noted a program used in class, Scorebuilders, that provides access to resources that give students the best outcome in taking the NPTE.

MCTC is incredibly proud of the PTA students and faculty for their hard work and accomplishments in achieving a third consecutive year of a 100 percent pass rate on the NPTE.

For more information on the PTA program, please contact Dr. Emily Norris at emily.norris@kctcs.edu

MCTC receives Transformational Leadership Award

By Rachel Adkins

Maysville Community and Technical College is honored to be one of six colleges recognized by the Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE) for higher education leadership at the annual Student Success Summit.

The annual summit provides development and networking opportunities for post-secondary faculty and staff. This year, MCTC was recognized for action related to student success through a transformational leadership award.

"We are truly honored to receive the Transformational Leadership Award. This recognition underscores our unwavering commitment to expanding access to higher ed-

ucation at Eastern Kentucky Correctional Complex. By empowering individuals with the opportunity to pursue academic success, we are not only transforming lives but also strengthening our entire community," Dr. Dana Calland, Vice President of Academic Services at MCTC, remarked.

More specifically, our institution was recognized for advancing CPE's strategic priorities and engaging with other postsecondary partners to share lessons learned. The MCTC initiative revolves around opportunities for the incarcerated and adult learner success.

"Our students regularly share their gratitude for the program and excitement they

feel regarding the steps they are taking to change their lives. We appreciate CPE recognizing the hard work of students, faculty, and staff," Dr. Maggie Price, Director of Student Success, said.

The project expands educational opportunities offered at Eastern Kentucky Correctional Complex, allowing prisoners to gain postsecondary certificates and associate degrees in select programs.

"We'd like to express our thanks to our dedicated faculty, staff, and partners who have made this work possible, and look forward to continuing our mission to open doors for every learner, regardless of their circumstances," Dana expressed.