



The top three winners in the Oct. 11 chili cook-off at Beech Grove Baptist Church pose for a photo. From left are first-place winner Bonnie Glass, second-place winner Karen Jones and third-place winner Amy Robertson.

Glass wins Beech Grove Baptist chili cook-off

BY STAFF REPORTS

Bonnie Glass was declared the winner of the Beech Grove Baptist Church chili cook-off Oct. 11. Karen Jones placed second and Amy Robertson placed third, organizers announced. “We had a good turnout. There were a dozen pots of chili,” said Joan Kincaid, one of the event’s organizers. “The judges had a difficult job in choosing first, second, and third-place winners.” “Everyone enjoyed a bowl of chili, sandwiches, desserts and s’mores over the fire pit. There were lots of games, a calk walk and a bounce house.”



The crowd lines up for a bowl of chili and other offerings during the Oct. 11 chili cook-off at Beech Grove Baptist Church.

Escaping to better

Ken Allen, a Bornean orangutan at the San Diego Zoo in the 1980s, became famous for his feats of escapism. As a youngster, he would unscrew the bolts of his cage at night, roam the nursery, then carefully reassemble everything before morning. When he got older, he escaped and strolled among zoo visitors, enjoying the freedom. except Otis, his room-mate. He threw rocks at Otis, so the zoo put him in solitary confinement. But still he escaped. The zoo spent \$40,000 on security — high walls, a moat, even an electric fence. None of it worked. Dubbed the “Hairy Houdini,” Ken Allen even made Time magazine’s list of “Top Zoo Escapes.” But there was one thing he couldn’t escape: an untreatable cancer that took his life at 29. R.I.P. Ken Allen. Reading about this clever orangutan made me think about the ways we humans try to escape. Some escapes are

good — like fleeing a burning house. But others end badly. Escaping from prison rarely ends well. Neither does trying to escape from God. By God’s hand, the Israelites escaped slavery in Egypt — yet quickly turned to a golden calf and later begged for a human king. They longed for freedom but ran straight into new chains of their own making. Jonah tried to escape God’s call and ended up inside a fish, proof that no one can out-swim or outrun the Lord. My pastor says we escape through both virtue and vice — our prideful piety and self-righteousness, or our rebellion and addictions. For me, it’s shoes. Or purses. Or the endless pursuit of the perfect pair of jeans. We all have our “comfort exits,” ways we try to slip out when life feels too heavy. Or when we just want what we want.

At church, we’re studying Hebrews. Its boiled-down message is simple: “Jesus is better.” Better than anything we run to for escape. Better than all the things we think will numb or distract or rescue us but never really do. The psalmist asked, “Where can I flee from your presence?” (Psalm 139). To some, that’s a cry of frustration: God, you’re everywhere — leave me alone! Adam and Eve hid in the garden. Even Peter once told Jesus, “Go away from me, Lord. I am a sinful man” (Luke 5:8). But later, when others were leaving Jesus, he asked the disciples, “Do you want to leave too?” Peter replied, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You alone have the words of eternal life” (John 6:68). That’s the kind of

escape I love — not running from, but running to something infinitely better. The old hymn “Fairer Lord Jesus” says, “Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, who makes the woeful heart to sing.” Isn’t that what we want when we run — to make our woeful hearts sing? We want something better. Whether we admit it or not, we want Jesus. And every time I run, deep down I hope there’s no place I can go where he is not. And there never is. He is always there — waiting, not with judgment, but with welcoming grace. Contact Nancy Kennedy at 352-564-2927 (leave a message) or email at nkennedy@chronicleonline.com.



NANCY KENNEDY

Chicks planted too deep never grow like they should

You might have heard about the city fellow who bought land in the country and decided to become a chicken farmer. He picked up 1,000 chicks from the hatchery. A month later, he picked up 500 more. And a month later, he was back for 500 more. “I take it your chicken farm is doing really well,” the hatchery worker said. “No,” the city fellow said sadly. “I’m not sure what I’m doing wrong. At first I thought I was planting them wrong side up or too close together, but now I suspect I’ve been putting them too deep.” OK. I know. That’s a horrible joke. But it’s the best I could come up with to lead into a discussion about what the Bible has to say about chickens. Surprisingly, they’re talked about relatively little. Eagles, ravens, vultures, even sparrows get more ink than chickens. Apparently, they weren’t as popular in biblical times as they are now. Have you noticed how chicken restaurants keep popping up everywhere? Go into just about any city, and you’ll find that KFC is just one of the many restaurants that majors on chicken. Some companies have even made billions of dollars selling those little bony chicken wings, just by bathing them in hot sauce.

In America, chicken has been the favored Sunday dinner for generations. In fact, preachers have been fattened on fried chicken since the pioneer days. But in biblical times, chickens got little notice. A rooster is mentioned in the Gospels. You remember, Peter had boldly declared that he’d stick with Jesus even to the end. But Jesus had told him that by the time the rooster crowed the next morning, Peter would deny he

knows him three times. The denials came — one, two, three. The rooster crowed and Peter burst into bitter tears, having been reminded of Jesus’ words. But one of the most beautiful mentions of chickens came from Jesus’ own lips. As He drew near to Jerusalem one day, He looked upon the city with great sorrow and declared: “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not” (Matthew 23:37).

Did you get that? Jesus described people of that day as chickens. Perhaps that remains a fitting description today, because some people seem to be so “chicken” when it comes to proclaiming the gospel. Of course, we know Jesus was describing how a hen cares for its little ones, offering them shelter beneath its wings. As a kid, I had more than one run in with a mother hen that saw me as a threat to her brood. All of us kids knew to stay clear of what we called “flogging hens.” We knew better than to mess with her little ones because she was bent on protecting them. That kind of protection is what Jesus longed to provide to His people, but they resisted, choosing to go their own way. I’m glad people in this part of the country embrace Jesus and serve Him with all their strength. That shows not only faith but also common sense. Those who reject Him are like the city fellow who planted his chicks too deep. They just don’t seem to have good sense. Reach Roger Alford at 502-514-6857 or rogeralford1@gmail.com.



ROGER ALFORD

FBC NEWS

BY BRO. BRAD BANKS

The series, “How Great a Salvation,” continued Sunday with a message from II Corinthians 5:17-21 entitled, “Transformation Births Proclamation.” The text revealed the reality of our proclamation, the responsibility of our proclamation, the role of

our proclamation, and the reason for our proclamation. Sunday evening our message from Colossians 2:8-15 dealt with being “Complete in Christ.” Family Night will be held this Wednesday with a potluck meal at 6:00pm and all the gatherings starting at 6:45pm.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Public Service Commission of Kentucky issued orders on July 7, 2025, scheduling a hearing to be held on November 3, 2025, at 9 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time, in the Richard Raff Hearing Room at the offices of the Public Service Commission located at 211 Sower Boulevard in Frankfort, Kentucky for Case Nos. 2025-00113 and 2025-00114. This is an examination of the Electronic Applications of Kentucky Utilities Company and Louisville Gas and Electric Company for adjustment of its electric and gas rates and approval of certain regulatory and accounting treatments.

This hearing will be streamed live and may be viewed on the PSC website, psc.ky.gov.

Public comments may be made at the beginning of the hearing. Those wishing to make oral public comments may do so by following the instructions listed on the PSC website, psc.ky.gov.