

KAYS BRANCH AND BEYOND

BY WANDA NEW

Thankfully the storm threat missed us Thursday night but we have had a big variation of weather. Wednesday felt like a perfect warm spring day at 71 degrees here. We had a little rain last weekend. The wind rearranged my front porch Friday. Mother Nature tried hard to cover us in snow all day Sunday, but the warmer ground wouldn't let it stick for long. It snowed hard, quit, snowed again and quit, came again many times. The air was cold; it struggled to get to 30 so I took a shorter walk.

Bryan and Joyce New were taking 4 kids from their church to Perfect North slopes on Sunday afternoon to go Tubing and meet others there.

I have kinfolks in Salt Lake City where the Olympics was held in 2002, I think. Their bucket list included going 70 mile an hour downhill in a Luge, what a cold thrill. They are looking forward to volunteering there again when the Olympics returns in 2034.

On a warmer note, Rhonda and Tim were in St. George's Island in Florida last week, a favorite fishing place for Tim especially.

Phillip Peiffer was flying to Miami at the request of his online job boss for a few days. He had gone to Indianapolis to watch his brother Eric play volleyball for Franklin College, so he spent night with his uncle and flew out Sunday. The rest of

us must stay in Kentucky and endure a few more weeks of winter, spring is only 3 weeks away.

The electrician was coming to Trina's to try to finish the electric wiring and be ready for inspection soon.

Charlie got back in his routine after the cold and ice to have his weekly lunch with his son Mark last week.

He has been working in his open-air woodshop, taking heating breaks at the house in between. He finished making another bench. If there's wood, he will be creating more items.

Joel was creating his own heating Sunday by spreading gavel and feeding Chris's horses. He said Earth Tools is slowly beginning to pick up business for spring.

Natalie combines family shopping trips with Yoga classes in Frankfort.

Patrick Kennedy was in Lexington Monday for an appointment and rewarded himself with Cincinnati chili he enjoys. A couple of days at home was going thru boxes with an eye to the next yard sale and online work looking ahead to another history job in Va. On Thursday he and Dara went to the food co-op and had lunch while there. They took a backroad to get there and while meeting a truck they hit a deep pothole in the road, ouch! So now they have rented a car and having Tim tow the car to Florence to check the damage. I narrowly avoided one in Frankfort; they can really do

some damage. Winter is hard on the roads, freezing and thawing.

Hannah treated them as her monthly "take a friend to dinner at Holly Hill Inn" on Friday. The food was delicious as always.

On Saturday Dara had a girls birthday lunch at the Ashbrook. The building used to be Ky Heritage Counsel and Pat had been going there many years working. He went to Winchester to visit and watch Stuart Joynt, a stone mason, as he did stone carving which was quite amazing. He gave him the piece to take home with him.

Pat has cut some white oak logs to inoculate for shiitake mushrooms, they have done it 3 times before. Good luck.

John Harrod is teaching fiddle at Centre college some days and other people come to his house to learn from the best!

Tona went to Capital Indivisible Lobby Day at the legislature on Wednesday, a local group that's part of a nationwide movement to protect democracy. Hannah also volunteered to help that day.

Tona spent a couple of days in her studio building painting which she hasn't done in a while. They continue working in their greenhouse with lettuce, spinach and pansies coming up. Makes it feel like spring.

Hannah attended America's 250th. Liberty Hall on "What makes a Kentuckian" Richard Taylor was among the panelists.

She went to Mardi Gras at the Capital Hotel for lunch and

spoke with Billy O'Banion who is head of the program there now.

Saturday, she went to the state arboretum in Lexington. She is a master naturalist and it sounded interesting, so she volunteered for the phenology of native trees, a citizen science project to study how climate change is affecting trees.

The arboretum has 140 species of trees native to Kentucky. She was assigned Shawnee Hills location to go once a week and log info on an App to be connected all over the country.

Other days included dermatology visit, tax meetings, Silver Minds Zoom meetings online and a visit to Meiers for special veggies they carry.

She went Saturday to Woodford Theatre in Versailles to see "The Mountain Top," a fictional story about Martin Luther King, a powerful play.

She ended the week going to her friend Mary Beth Robson's for dinner.

I finally got the impression made for my implant tooth Tuesday, but Dr Smith said it may be 4 weeks or so before I get the tooth to put back my whole smile!!

Ellis's school was closed 3 days last week for sickness, so Ray picked him up and we went to Chinese Buffet that night.

Next day they went to a movie "Goat" while I went to Ky Blood center and donated blood.

Haze turned 12 on his birth-

day so the extended family spent a few days in Gatlinburg for a mid-winter break. They stayed in a cabin on top of a big hill that Mayme called on "top of the world!" She enjoys going places with them, at 93, I think. That's great. But she didn't ride the Mountain coaster ride.

Brock Conway celebrated his ninth birthday a few days early with a party at Monterey Baptist gym on Saturday. He had already gotten a dirt bike. Drift New and Liam Ballinger were among the guests having a great time.

Feb. 25 would have been uncle Jimmy's 98th birthday. He passed two years ago already. Emma Engelman's birthday is the 26th and Phillip Peiffer is 28th. Happy birthday to all.

Fay and Jennifer were busy last week planning and getting food lined up for Howard Wigg's funeral service. They had lunch at Oddfellows afterward. Thanks to all who helped them clean up afterward.

Our thoughts are with Nancy, I know it is a hard thing to deal with.

Sadly I learned that Don Ayres' son Jeff passed this week. Don is not in good health in Florida. Keep him and Sue in your prayers.

We have limited time on this Earth, don't waste it on uselessness. Be kind to everyone and do good. When you can't control what's happening around you, challenge yourself to control the way in which you respond.

Unclenched living

Recently, I bought a pair of white leather sneakers. They're so pristine, so comfortable.

But they've been sitting in my closet, waiting to be worn.

I want to wear them, but I haven't. They're pristine white, and I don't want to get them dirty.

because I do this all the time.

I'll buy something I love, but I don't wear it or use it. What if it gets dirty? What if it gets worn out?

So it sits in my closet. A pastor once said to me that all of life illustrates biblical truth, and I've been thinking about these white sneakers and what message God might have for me.

Because, as I suspect, it's not about the shoes. The shoes are just a symptom of something deeper.

This morning, I read about the ancient Israelites who wandered in the wilderness for 40 years and how they ate manna — "bread from

heaven." Each morning, God sent just enough for the day.

When some people saved part of theirs "just in case," it bred worms and smelled disgusting.

I probably would've been one of the savers.

I call myself cautious. God would probably call me "O ye of little faith."

Jesus told His followers not to worry about clothes and food because God already knows what we need and when we need it.

This morning, I also read about sisters Mary and Martha, friends of Jesus. Martha was the one who was fretful and fussy, making sure everything was just so.

Jesus lovingly chided her, saying, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things."

Sometimes I think that's what Jesus says to me.

Nancy, Nancy, you try so hard to control what

you can't. Put the "what ifs" away. Don't worry about tomorrow, because I'm already there.

I heard someone use the phrase "unclenched living" the other day.

My untouched white sneakers sitting in my closet are a picture of clenched living — trying to control outcomes, prevent damage, avoid loss.

I live cautiously — maybe too cautiously.

I've also noticed that the older I get, the smaller my life seems to be. I don't take many risks. No huge leaps of faith for me.

I've canceled trips. Missed events. Said "maybe next time" more times than I can count — knowing that next time I'll probably say the same thing.

And that bothers me.

The same person who talked about unclenched living also said, "Faith isn't about preservation. Faith is about participation."

Preservation is unbelief. Participation is trust.

I confess, these ideas make me uncomfortable — but life is uncomfortable.

Throughout the Bible, God is always inviting people to test Him, try Him: "Taste and see that the Lord is good."

Maybe God is reminding me that just as shoes are made to be worn, life is meant to be lived.

Unclench my grip on safety and security.

Take the risk. Say the words. Go on the trip. Do the thing.

Do it afraid, trusting the One who promises to go with me.

At this stage of my life, I'm not climbing any mountains.

But I can put on my sneakers and take bigger steps of faith, beginning with not worrying if they get dirty.

That only means I'm participating.

The truth is, I'm wearing my white sneakers as I write this — and I plan to go out later.

So we'll see what happens after that.

Contact Nancy Kennedy at 352-564-2927 (leave a message) or email at nkennedy@chronicleonline.com.



NANCY KENNEDY

FBC NEWS

BY BRO. BRAD BANKS

Sunday morning's message was from Exodus 16:1-36 entitled "The Place of Eating." The message focused on the appearance, abundance, and appointed time of the manna and the symbolism of each to the Christian. Sunday evening our message from Hebrews 2:1-4 was entitled "How Great a Salvation."

The Church League Volleyball will be on the court Monday evening from 6:30 till closing.

The Wild Game Supper is tonight, February 27! The night will start with registration at 6:00pm and the meal at 6:30pm.

Dr. Chuck McAlister, founder of Adventure-Bound Outdoors and head of HomePlace Ministries will be the speaker.

Camo Sunday is March 1 with breakfast at 8:00am and the early service at 9:00am.

Information session on the Jamaica Mission trip is Sunday, March 1 at noon.

The students will head to Winter Jam in

Louisville on Saturday, March 7 and the Spring Bible Study for Students kicks off Sunday, March 1 at 6:30pm.

Our students and children meet each Wednesday at 6:30pm. Our Children's Church Ministry is offered during the 11:00am worship service. Come check out our new children's ministry room.

The FLC is open Monday – Friday from 8:00am – 1:00pm, Saturday from 9:00am – 1:00pm, and Monday/Tuesday/Thursday from 4:00-8:00pm.

Our weekly service times are Sunday at 9:00am, 11:00am, and 6:30pm. The Sunday School gatherings start at 10:00am. Our Wednesday service begins at 6:30pm.

Our church would like to remind you that you can connect with us through our website at owentonfbc.com, Face Book at FBC Owenton, download our church app, join us on twitter or Instagram. You can also call the church office or email us at office@owentonfbc.com.

God bless you, your family, and our community. See you Sunday!

Man accuses preacher of stealing butter knives

I enjoyed a story a friend sent to me the other day about a pastor who, while visiting one of his church members, noticed dust on his Bible.

The pastor asked the church member if he had been reading the Bible.

"Oh, yes, pastor," the man of the house said. "I read that Bible every day. In fact, I read it twice a day."

Over the course of a few weeks, the pastor had dinner with the fellow a half dozen times, each time noticing the dust on the Bible. That man started noticing something too: Every time the pastor visited, a butter knife disappeared.

"I think the pastor is stealing our butter knives," the man told his wife. "I'm going to confront him about it."

So, the fellow invited the pastor back to interrogate him about the missing butter knives.

"You harass me about reading my Bible, and you are a thief," the fellow declared. "You have stolen a half dozen of our butter

knives."

"Oh, I didn't take your butter knives," the pastor said. "I put them in your Bible. I'm surprised you didn't notice, since you read it twice a day."

I love witty pastors who teach spiritual lessons in unexpected ways. You know, there are many instances in scripture of spiritual leaders



ROGER ALFORD

who did the same.

The Apostle Paul was preaching in Athens to a people who were wholly caught up in idol worship. Among the many idols they had, Paul saw one that was dedicated to "the unknown god."

Paul pointed to that one and said that's the one I want to talk to you about, and he launched into a ser-

mon about Jesus, who was indeed unknown to them at the time.

Jesus also used objects to teach important spiritual truths. He pointed to fishing nets, mustard seeds, lilies, grapevines, sparrows, figs, yeast, salt and more.

I can envision Him sitting on a fishing boat with a net beside him when he said God's kingdom is like a net. I can envision him in a vineyard when talked about

being the true vine. I can envision sparrows flying nearby when He said consider the sparrow and taught about God's love for us.

That's why I think He would approve if a pastor

actually used butter knives to teach a pompous man an important lesson about being truthful.

Reach Roger Alford at 502-514-6857 or rogeralford1@gmail.com.

Local Cost Share Program

The Owen County Soil Conservation District is offering Local Cost Share Program to any farmer who needs assistance with **Pasture Liming, Livestock Watering Facilities, Heavy Use Area, or Pasture Renovation, Water Diversion System.** If you are interested in applying for any of these practices you may complete an application at the Owen County Soil Conservation District at 205 West Perry Street between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.; 502-484-3979 ext. 4012. **Applications will be accepted through March 20, 2026.**

REQUEST FOR LETTERS OF INTEREST AND STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATION FOR OLDER ADULT SERVICES

The Northern Kentucky Area Development District/Aging and Disability Services Division is seeking information for Older Adult and disabled individuals aged 18 and older services to be funded through the Federal Older Americans Act programs. The Request for Letters of Interest and Statements of Qualification process will be used to determine if a full Request for Proposal is required. A copy of these RFI's may be viewed at www.nkadd.org. A copy may also be obtained by calling 859-283-1885. Letters of Interest are due no later than 4:00 pm EDT, March 20, 2026.