

The River Ran Backwards

By Van Yandell

John 7: 37-38 “In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.”

The morning was cool but pleasant. I walked out onto the pier under the Brooklyn Bridge with my early morning coffee. The New York skyline cast shadows over the city, I felt totally alone and susceptible. We were working with a Christian disaster relief group providing meals for first responders and victims.

The scene of that September morning in 2001 included smoke off the site of the collapsed World Trade Center towers. It had been five days since the terrorist attack on America.

The smoke continued to rise off the rubble and the thoughts of the lives lost troubled my soul. The dead are dead but their families were in extreme grief. Not knowing for sure what has happened to a loved one is horrible but to consider the circumstances of their death sets the heart and mind beyond its normal limits.

Sea gulls floated by as if being uplifted by an unseen force emanating off the wa-

ter of the East River. Not a river, it bears the name. Actually it is a saltwater tidal estuary or strait connecting the Atlantic Ocean in two places.

Finally my eyes cast down toward the water and the thought besieged my mind, “The river was running the other direction yesterday! Am I going mad? What’s happening?”

In a few seconds the realization came forth, the tide was going out; whereas yesterday it was coming in. Being from western Kentucky, my ability to comprehend the tides was limited and came only from text books.

A river running backwards happened on February 7, 1812. When the New Madrid fault slipped on that date, the Mississippi River ran backwards for several hours forming Reelfoot Lake in northwest Tennessee. That quake is estimated to have been as high as 8.2 on the Richter scale.

Water in volumes too large to accurately determine, exerts tremendous force. The energy produced by tides exceeds all the energy produced by mankind every second of every day. To harness that energy is another matter.

Tidal energy is currently being used in a few locations around the world, most notably at the Sihwa Lake Tidal

Power Station in South Korea and La Rance, France, which is the oldest large-scale tidal power station still in operation.

The awareness of tidal potential as a renewable and economical source of energy has long existed but the initial cost of tidal power plants is mostly prohibitive. Perhaps in the future, the tides will be utilized to decrease the use of fossil fuels which some believe is a major factor in climate change.

Life on earth could not exist without water. Genesis 1: 2 tells us, “The spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.” We know that water is one of the essential components for God’s creation process.

The combining of carbon based matter (Genesis 1: 1), water (Genesis 1: 2) and light (Genesis 1: 3), the process of photosynthesis happens. With that, chlorophyll is produced, of which a by-product is oxygen.

We humans inhale oxygen to be distributed by our lungs into our blood which in turn feeds the thirty trillion cells in our bodies. On the return trip through our veins the residue left (carbon dioxide) is exhaled into the atmosphere which provides for plants the fuel to produce more chlorophyll thus more oxygen.

God was the first recycler and it appears He thought of everything. I suppose that’s why He’s God.

Considering the power of moving water and that water is essential for photosynthesis and human survival, we can understand why Jesus emphasized water in His teachings.

John 4: 13 “Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

At times it seems as if the church, like the East River, is running backwards. The church as Jesus intended it to be has in many cases lost its focus. Matthew 16: 18 “That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”

That statement by Jesus indicates one and only one church. His church has been severely fragmented and divided by denominationalism which is a result of individual thinking. Religionists have taken it upon themselves to distort the words of our Savior/Creator.

We cannot rewrite the scriptures and expect it to go unnoticed. Revelation 22

18b-19a “If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life.”

The perversion of the originally intended church goes far beyond the corruption of the scriptures. Churches are not to be social clubs or entertainment centers. Speakers are not to preach what has lately been dubbed as “feel good” preaching.

Jesus’ sacrificial death on the cross for the remission of the sins of all mankind was nothing to take lightly and celebrate as the winning of a ball game. Jesus’ death and resurrection changed the history of the world as no other event, ever!

We often wonder why the church is in decline in America. Perhaps these are a part of the reasons. We must preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ and adhere to His teachings and not let this river run backwards.

Van Yandell is a retired Industrial Arts teacher, an ordained gospel evangelist and commissioned missionary. His email: vmy2121@outlook.com

WCSO Announces August Highway Safety Check Points

Between the dates of August 10, 2026 and August 31, 2026, the Webster County Sheriff’s Office will be involved in proactive enforcement patrols. In an effort to enhance highway safety in Webster County, the Sheriff’s Office will target areas of high traffic safety issues including impaired driving offenses.

The Webster County Sheriff’s Office has the following pre-approved traffic safety checkpoint locations:

1. US 41A North at KY 56 and KY 873
2. KY 109 North of Clay at the 10 Mile Marker
3. KY 56 East at Old Beech Grove Road
4. KY 109 at KY 670
5. KY 56 West between New Cedar Grove Church Road and Lyce Duncan Road
6. US 41A South at KY 270
7. US 41 South at KY 147
8. KY 132 East at KY 494

These locations incorporate checkpoint locations established by the local Kentucky State Police Post, with additional locations added due to ongoing issues related to traffic safety concerns and impaired driving, identified by local data.

By Vicki Shadrick
Extension Agent
for Agriculture
and Natural Resources

The KY Plate it up! Kentucky Proud project provides healthy, great tasting recipes using Kentucky Proud products for the people of Kentucky. This project, launched in 2010, was a partnership project between the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service, the Kentucky Department of Agriculture and the University of Kentucky Department of Dietetics and Human Nutrition. While many projects in our college address one area of the land grant mission upon which we were founded, this project uniquely engages teaching, research and extension to serve the needs of Kentuckians.

Be sure to shop at your local farmers’ market and grab some cucumbers to make this tasty Sweet and Savory Cucumber Salad.

- Ingredients**
- 2 medium cucumbers
 - 2 tablespoons coarse kosher salt
 - 1/4 cup slivered blanched almonds
 - 1 teaspoon minced garlic
 - 20 seedless grapes
 - 1 cup fresh blueberries
 - 2 tablespoons olive

Hancock Reunion August 23

The date and location of the 2026 Hancock Reunion has been changed from Sunday, August, 9 to Sunday, August, 23, due to damage from flooding recently in the Onton UMC basement.

The new location is the Onton Fire Barn, across the road from Onton UMC. As always, the reunion will start at noon and we will eat about 12:30. Bring a covered dish and any family photos or documents you would like to share. Organizers say they are looking forward to seeing Hancock descendants at this new date and location.



God Knows You

By Dr. Bob Hardison

God Gives Us
Help To Speak
Boldly About Christ

Q: I know Christ wants me to verbally witness for Him to unbelievers. My problem is I fear rejection from those I share Him with. Where do I get the courage to share Jesus regardless of the cost?

A: Speaking about Jesus with others while gathered for Bible study or worship is easy. But, talking about Him with those who haven’t heard or believed is another matter. Sometimes people response with acceptance and at other times they respond by rejecting us and the message. But unless we share Jesus with unbelievers, no one else can accept Him and experience the joy of forgiveness and salvation.

Jesus commissioned

us to “Go and make disciples” (Mt. 28:19). To obey his commission, we must help people realize they are sinners and that they need our Savior (Acts 4:12). Obedience in sharing verbally requires a willingness to endure the costs of rejection.

Where do we get the courage to share Jesus with unbelievers? It comes from the filling of the Holy Spirit. Regarding this filling, we should remember two things. First, the Bible teaches the Holy Spirit is the presence of God in the life of every born-again believer (Jn. 14:17, Acts 2:38, 1 Cor. 6:19, Eph. 4:30). Second, the Holy Spirit is uniquely and powerfully at work in and through us when we are sharing the good

news that Jesus saves. Through the Holy Spirit, God directly gives courage to those speaking boldly about Christ with people who need Him.

PUBLIC NOTICE

2026 PROPOSED TAX RATE PUBLIC HEARING

The Webster County Fiscal Court will hold a public hearing on August 24, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. at the Webster County Senior Center for the purpose of obtaining comments from the public regarding the proposed tax rate.

The tax rate levied last year was 18.80 and produced revenues of \$1,213,146. This year’s compensating rate is 18.00 and will produce revenues in the amount of \$1,226,418. If the rate is set at 18.70 it will produce revenues in the amount of \$1,274,112. The Webster County Fiscal Court proposes to increase the tax rate by 4% which would make it 18.70 for 2026. This will not cause the taxpayers taxes to increase.

The Kentucky General Assembly requires that the Webster County Fiscal Court publish this notice with the above information contained herein. 8/19c

PUBLIC NOTICE

Jonathan Edward Stione, 6701 Mundy Lane, Mt. Carmel, IL and Willard Keith Stine, 5445 Statts Mills Road, Ripley, WV were appointed co-Executors of the Estate of Willard Charlesa Stine, who died testate, a resident of 5526 State Route 109, South, Providence, KY on April 9, 2026. Elizabeth Parrish, 5955 Manitou Road, Manitou, KY was designated as agent for the service of process. Date of qualification July 21, 2026. Inventory due October 27, 2026. Settlement due July 25, 2028. All claims must be filed within six months of appointment.

Jessica Curan, 2515 Moorefield Road, Carlisle, KY and Lauren Early, 6315 State Route 7622 Philpot, KY were appointed co-Administratrix of the Estate of Kimberly Michelle Gilles, who died intestate, a resident of 401 North Broadway, Providence, KY on June 17, 2026. Date of qualification July 21, 2026. Dawn Curran Letcher, 125 E. Main Street, Carlisle, KY 40311. Inventory due October 27, 2026. Settlement due July 25, 2028. All claims must be filed within six months of appointment.

Faith A. Deans, 7501 Greenbriar Drive, Evansville, IN was appointed Administratrix of the Estate of Dominic B. Zangaro (Ancillary Estate), who died intestate a resident of Indiana. Attorney Davin L. Shaw was designated as agent for the service of process. Date of qualification July 21, 2026. Davin A. Shaw, Foreman, Watson, Holtrey, LLP, 1 North Main Street, Madisonville, KY 42431. Inventory due October 27, 2026. Settlement due July 25, 2028. All claims must be filed within six months of appointment.

PUBLIC NOTICE

WEBSTER COUNTY AMBULANCE DISTRICT 2026 PROPOSED TAX RATE PUBLIC HEARING

The Webster County Ambulance Board will hold a public hearing on August 20, 2026, at 3:30 a.m. at the Webster County Courthouse Vault for the purpose of obtaining comments from the public regarding the proposed tax rate.

The tax rate levied last year for Real Property was 0.0640 and produced revenues of \$324,666. The Personal Property was .0890 and produced revenues of \$21,615. If both rates are set at 0.0640 it will produce revenues for total property in the amount of \$355,855. The Webster County Ambulance Board proposes to increase the tax rates by 4% which would make it 0.0640 for 2026.

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