

A WORTHWHILE READ

James Bracy wrote his wife a love letter, and she received it a few days ago. Nothing unusual about that, you say? What if I add the fact that it was written 46 years ago? As you might expect, there's more to this story . . .

When Mr. Bracy was stationed in California with the Army in 1955, he wrote to Sallie Bracy at her parents' home in Virginia. He put the then-required six cents of postage on his letter and dropped it off at the post office. And that's where his letter stayed until it was found just last month by a construction crew in the process of dismantling the old building. It apparently fell between two walls in the mail room and lay there undiscovered for all these years.

Was Mrs. Bracy disinterested because so much time had passed? Hardly! If anything, she said, it means more to her now than when he wrote it so long ago. Wish that more of us felt that way about heaven's "love letter" to us.

During Jay Leno's occasional on-the-street interviews he asked, "Can you name one of the Ten Commandments?" "God helps those who help themselves?" offered someone. "Freedom of speech?" guessed another.

"Name one of the apostles," Leno challenged his audience. They couldn't come up with even one. Then he asked if they could name the Beatles, and with one voice they shouted, "George, Paul, John, and Ringo!"

Recent surveys indicate that this sort of biblical illiteracy isn't uncommon in America. One survey has 12% saying Noah was married to Joan of Arc. Another revealed that only 42% of those quizzed could identify who preached the Sermon on the Mount.

Is it because the Bible is such an ancient document? Is it because we have a mistaken notion of what we'd find there? Are we just too busy?

Sallie Bracy cherishes her husband's four-page letter from 46 years ago. It is more precious than any other in her scrapbook because of the unusual and circuitous route by which it reached her. I feel something similar to that about my Bible. Yes, it was first written a long time ago. But it has survived all these centuries against the determined efforts of many to destroy it. Then, when I finally pick it up to read, I discover it tells a love story that involves you and me.

If time with Holy Scripture isn't part of your routine, may I suggest you begin with the Gospel of John? I think you'll be thrilled by what you find there.

Grace & Peace
Derek

Sunday Conference call:

To listen to our Sunday morning service live,
call 1-800-914-8405 followed by 4896244
YOU MUST MUTE YOUR PHONE

Family News & Notes

- **Haschal Golden** is home recovering.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

HEALTH ISSUES: Joe Albritton, Herman Davis, Helen Denton, Danny Jackson, Ken Joines, Misha Kimbell, Tom MacMillan, Donna Meadows, Peggy McGowen, James Neal, Emily Ready, Jerry Richardson, Jack Usery, Jamie Vorhof, Linda Weatherford, Jane Winstead, Jeanette Williams.

REHAB: Cora Epperson

HOSPICE: Lula Whittle

SHUT-INS: Mary Lou Bennett, Valeria Canada, Lorene Edge, Cora Epperson, FM Hylander, Evelyn Fowler, Sallye Giles, Irmagene Hall, Margaret Jones, Jackie Lorensen, Dot McEwen, Billy & Betty Moore, Dorinda Murphy, Lynn Stalnaker, Helen Weathers.

FAMILY: Jeanette Barnes, Maxine Drewery, Pam Edwards, Mike Hasler, Zayden Huffman, Mary Jackson, Judy Lee, Sam Macmillan-deployed, Mike Massey, Jacob Maxwell-deployed, Sandra Morris, Terrance Simmons, Chris Weatherford, Ray Yearwood.

THANK YOU!

Thank you Gary & Tammy Pruet for cooking our delicious BBQ & beans for the July 4th picnic. We had over 200 members in attendance.

Thanks to the classes and volunteers that helped install the sound baffles in the FLC to improve the sound quality.

WORSHIP TIME DURING VBS

- **Sunday morning, July 15**, all morning adult classes will be combined in the FLC. Please wear your VBS shirt for our Kick off day!
- VBS begins Sunday night on **July 15** and our evening worship that Sunday will be at **6:00PM**.
- We will also have a class for adults in the auditorium each evening of VBS. The class will start at **6:15PM**, followed by refreshments in room 24.

KFC'S/SENIOR LUNCHEON

The KFC Classes will be serving lunch to our seniors on **Sunday, July 22** after AM Worship. If you would like to attend please RSVP **Susan Brownfield** at



Reminders . . .

- ☞ **SHARE** will meet on the **Sunday, July 15**.
- ☞ **TLC'S** will meet at Hazel's **Tuesday, July 17** at 8:30AM.
- ☞ There will be **NO Encouragement Class, Tuesday, July 17**.
- ☞ **Back to school party Sunday, August 5**.

Invite a friend to Worship

JOYFUL NOISE

Please join us **Friday, July 13, 2018** for a quarterly gospel singing. This will be a **family night** of acappella singing at its best. **Todd Cottrell** will be our emcee and singing will be in the Family Life Center at **7PM**. Come and have your spirit renewed!

VBS JULY 15—18

- VBS shirts are available **today**. Please pick yours up in the foyer.
- **Sunday, July 8**, is our VBS work day to start setting up.
- We still need empty toilet paper rolls or paper towel rolls.



FOOD PANTRY ITEMS

In addition to helping our congregation, we will be serving our community by restocking the Goodman Oaks Food Pantry. Please pick up a brown bag from any of our entrances/exits, and bring the items back on our **5th Sunday, July 29**. We ask that you **place the bags on the stage** that morning as we show our love and support for our community.

Canned Fruit	Peanut Butter—smooth
Canned Vegetables	Jelly
Dry Beans	Canned Chicken
Rice	Tuna
Oatmeal	Macaroni & Cheese
Cereal	Ramen Noodles
Pasta	Pasta Sauce
Meal-in-a-can	Crackers

YOUTH NEWS

CANOE TRIP

Parents and teens be on the look for more information regarding our Canoe Trip that we will be taking on **Tuesday, July 10**. We will be sending out more information via remind and text messages.

