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September 3-16, 2020

MURAL ON MAIN

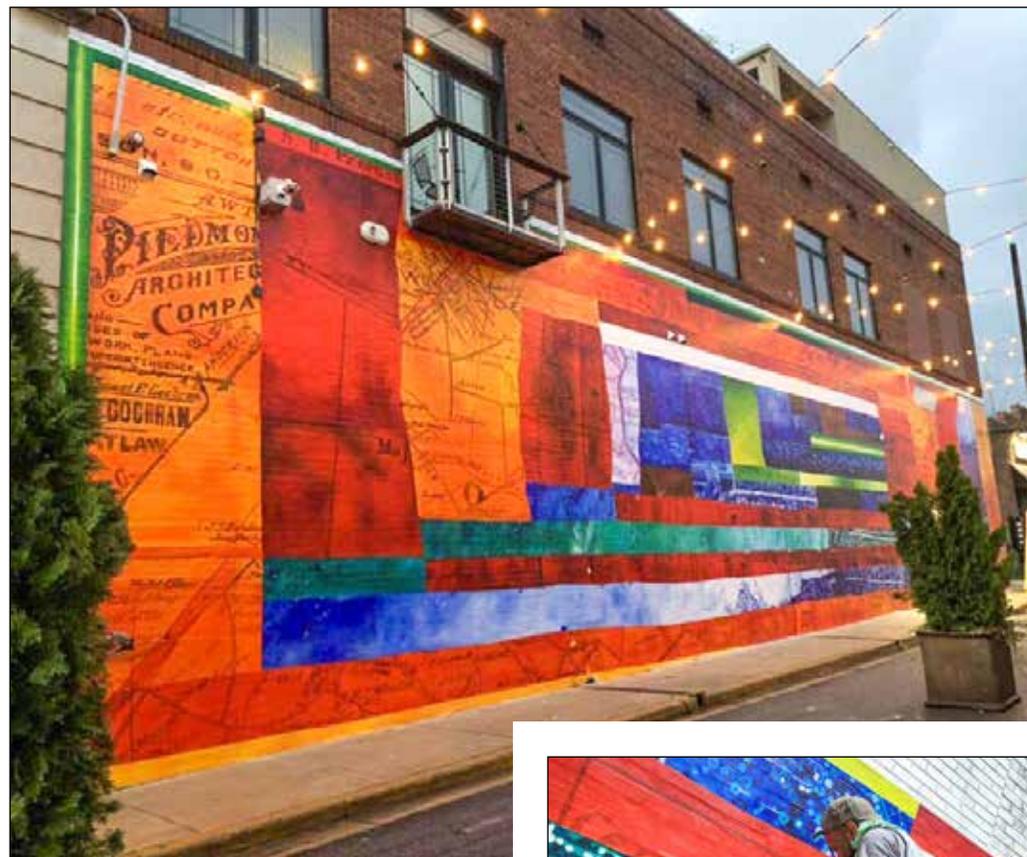
The Mural on Main is the completed project of Leadership Anderson Class 36. It is located on the corner of Orr and Main Streets. The purpose of the mural is to act as a conduit for continued growth in Anderson by connecting the community through the power of art. Funds were raised for the project by individuals and groups who purchased sponsorship of individual panels. The ribbon cutting ceremony will be held at the mural on Thursday, September 3 at 5:00. The event is open to the public.

Although hundreds of people had a part in bringing this beautiful piece of art in to being, there was a core group of artists who with their gifts and skills, are responsible for its creation.

BEHIND THE MURAL

HERMAN KEITH, JR

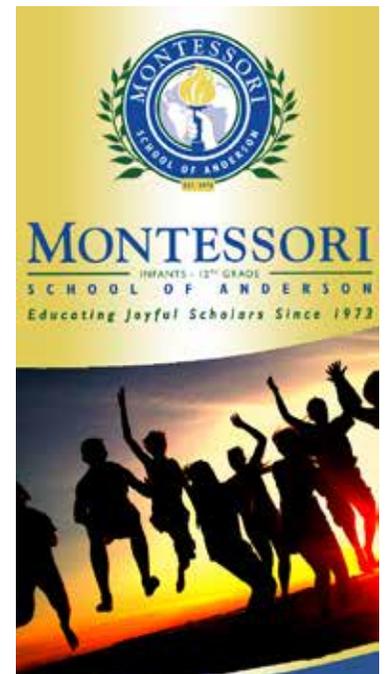
Herman is the visionary behind this mural. The most unique aspect of the mural is that it is a collaborative project. Herman believes that including people in the community by inviting groups to help paint within the design gives people ownership and enthusiasm for the project.



The process builds relationships while working towards a common goal.

This mural's design is based on the famous quilts of the Gee's Bend. These original quilts were created by a group of women and their ancestors who lived in the isolated African American village of Gee's Bend, Alabama along the Alabama River.

SEE MURAL ON PAGE 2



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Anderson's Agency

Mural

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Herman grew up in Anderson where both his parents were teachers in District 5. He is a graduate of Westside High School and Howard University where he majored in Graphic Design. He earned a Masters of Arts in Education degree from Lander University. He is an art teacher at Claflin University and more notably a gifted artist who specializes in designing murals.

ETHAN DRAKE

Ethan is from Columbia, S.C. He is 21 years old and a senior at Claflin University. Ethan is an Art major studying Studio Art with a concentration in Painting. As a student of his, Herman saw great potential in Ethan. He offered him a job part time helping him in his studio in the planning and design stage of the mural. He came to Anderson for some of the collaborative paint parties at the Arts Center. Ethan spent 7 days here last week helping with the installation of the mural. He was usually on the scaffolding most of the time delicately applying the 5x5 painted panels to the 1,700 ft wall.

GLOVER RICHBERG

Glover is a resident of Denmark, S.C where he is a family man, a pastor and an artist. He majored in Studio Art at Claflin University and was actually an Art student of Herman's father at Claflin. Glover spent several days side by side with Ethan as they applied the panels of the mural to the building with amazing precision.

"I see art as a tool to enhance, enrich, and



energize. The process of the Mural on Main focuses on community, history, power and a bright and hopeful future. Even as the quilt represents and celebrates diversity and unity, so do we endeavor always to promote harmony, love and co-operation. Grateful to God for the people of Anderson and for this amazing love opportunity!"

BRIANNA HOLCOMBE

Brianna is a recent graduate of Claflin University. She majored in graphic design and was a former art student in Herman's class. She now lives in Easley, SC where she works as a graphic artist. Brianna also worked at the HK studio in Orangeburg with the planning and design stages of the mural. She came to

Anderson each day to help with the installation and final touches of this massive art project.

This collaborative project was possible with the help and support of other local artists and some who traveled to Anderson. Herman's brother, Nic Keith of Charlotte, NC who is also an artist spent several days here helping with the installation. Patro Ulmer, a local mural artist and owner of Wine and Design also spent many hours assisting with the project. Collaboration is the key to bringing people together. Unity was the desired outcome of the Mural on Main. Without even realizing what was going on these past few months, bonds were formed and hearts were aligned and Anderson became one.

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TO SEND INFORMATION

Please make sure photos include the date taken, location and names of people in the photos. If photos are submitted via email, make sure they are a minimum of 300 dpi and saved as a JPEG file. If photos are mailed, we cannot guarantee the photo will be returned. The editor of The Electric City News will make your article/story grammatically correct without altering its content. The publishers of The Electric City News reserve the right to withhold inappropriate content or photos.

LOVE YOUR HOME



Bill Ducworth

The Electric City News was so very fortunate to have Bill Ducworth on our staff for almost 10 years. Bill's encyclopedic knowledge of everything from fabrics to art to table settings to arrangements made from backyard sticks to German potato salad to Aunt Ruth's silver platter was exceptional and enlightening, entertaining and humorous and of course honest. So in honor of our dear friend, we have decided to revive Bill's articles from years past. We hope you enjoy them, again, as much as we have.

I have a very fine Persian rug I inherited from an old aunt. It's an odd size. Too small for the room and bigger than a runner. Is there a "trick" to making it work? ~ Ellen

This isn't a problem. It's actually the perfect rug story. The fact that it's a family piece makes it a beautiful statement for any space, large, small or odd. Odd is always the most interesting in pretty much anything decorative, unless it's painted on velvet! But then there's a place for everything. Your rug needs to land on the bias or angle of the room. Find the most comfortable angle. It can go slightly under furniture. Rugs do not have to fit perfectly. Have you

ever seen a Bedouin tent that was perfectly straight? I think not. But then there's generally no furniture in a tent. When placing your rug on the angle let it face an opening from which you enter the room. Look at it as a welcome mat for your guest. Visually it will bring you and them and the dog in with great elegance and style. I prefer to make a large sisal rug to fit the furniture layout, but that isn't always necessary. If it's a good rug it can make all the "zing" you need. The way to tell a GOOD rug is if it can be folded up and put in your trunk. Run post haste from anything else! Love your home....and your rugs.





BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

A new voice in men's fashion

BY MARY HALEY THOMPSON

Last week, Noah Johnson launched Voix Clothing, an online store that features men's streetwear curated from unique brands around the world.

Noah is from Mattoon, Illinois and moved to South Carolina ten years ago. He and his family have now lived in Anderson for five years. Fashion and music were always a big part of Noah's life. He grew up leading worship at his church and still does so today. "As a man of few words, I have always been able to find my voice and express who I am through fashion and music," Noah explains. His lifelong passions inspired him to name his business "Voix" which is the French word for voice. Noah hopes to inspire his new customers to find their voice and express their personalities through pieces found within his unique collection.

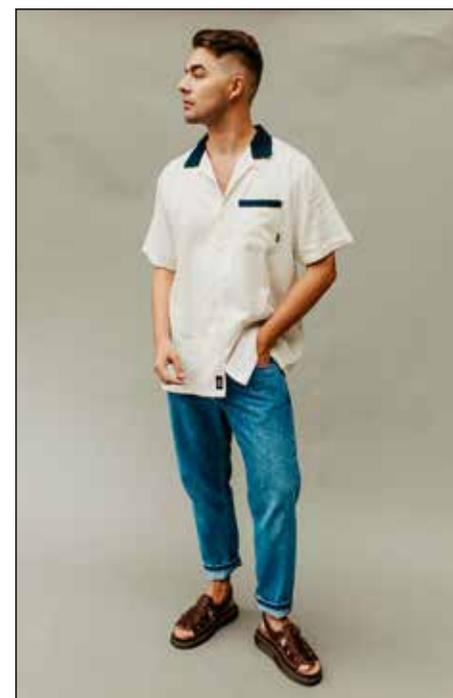
Retail also runs in the Johnson family as his mother, Kim Johnson, opened Plum

Suede Boutique in Anderson in 2017.

Noah was inspired by his mother's success in the fashion industry and wanted to take advantage of a unique opportunity to showcase Voix Clothing in her store located downtown Anderson.

At only 22-years old, Noah is considered one of Anderson's youngest entrepreneurs. His story is a testament that you're never too young or too old to pursue your dreams, and once you find your voice, anything is possible.

Voix Clothing features a carefully curated blend of unique brands from the United States, United Kingdom and Australia. Noah selected pieces that are high quality, minimalistic and fashion-forward. His collection includes shirts, pants, jackets and accessories. Customers can shop Voix Clothing at Plum Suede Boutique located at 208 North Main Street downtown or online at www.VoixClothing.com.



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Meet the press

THE Electric City News

OZZIE AND FREDA BRYANT

Directors of distribution

Ozzie is a retired State of Michigan Peace Officer and Freda is a retired Assistant Special Ed teacher. They moved from Michigan 10 years ago and have been in the distribution workforce since 1985.

Ozzie has been a Mason for 17 years with Okemos Lodge #252. They have been married for 35 years and have six children and ten grandchildren. They also have six foster children who are enrolled in the Greenville Virtual Learning Program. "Our living room and dining room are currently serving as classrooms", they said. The Bryants tell us they like Anderson because of its diversity and friendly people. "We always find the time to engage in friendly visits and conversations with everyone we come in contact with."

Thank you to Ozzie and Freda for their extraordinary dedication, hard work and willingness to go the extra mile. You are greatly appreciated and we couldn't do it without you.



SUSAN TEMPLE

The Garden Shop

Susan moved here in 1976 from Greenville. She says, "I have never visited a place I like enough to leave Anderson for." Susan has been married to John Temple for almost 11 years. In her column and among friends, she refers to him as "husband".

She says she began gardening after buying an ugly house. Free plants from her mother and grandmother made her house look better. In 1998, Henry Busby hired her to work on Saturdays at his garden center. Then her gardening hobby became a habit. In 2006, she took the Master Gardener course. Her column, The Garden Shop, made its debut in The Electric City News in the spring of 2012.

Something readers may not know about her: Susan started collecting clowns in 1981 when a boyfriend bought her one at Six Flags. "All of my clowns are numbered and inventoried noting where I got it, when and who gave it to me. The latest number is #580, but there are so many more than that because some are in sets of 2, 5, etc.," Susan admits. I have a clown room in my house, but there are also special ones in other places in my home and garden. Caulrophobic anyone?"



Daily reflections



MARY-CATHERINE McCLAIN RINER

An important step in nurturing a kind, aware, and loving relationship with ourselves is daily and intentional conversation and self-dialogue. Clients often struggle on how and where to begin. To get you started, consider these prompts and commit to journaling each night before you go to bed. Remember, what you say to yourself is everything!

1. Today, I am grateful and thankful for:
2. Today, I am proud of:
3. Today, I am able to celebrate:
4. Today, I find strength in:
5. Today, I feel most energized by:
6. Today, I feel happiest when:
7. Today, I choose to surrender and let go of:
8. Today, I will forgive myself for:
9. Today, I am allowing myself to feel:
10. Today, I am releasing the unrealistic expectation that:
11. Today, I give myself permission to release or mourn:

Mary-Catherine McClain Riner, Ph.D., Ed.S., M.S., is a Licensed Psychologist with Riner Counseling, LLC. Visit www.riner-counseling.com or call 864-608-0446.

THE OFFICIAL PASTIME OF 2020

Like me, my sister, Lisa, is now an empty nester. And with her three kids to my one, hers was a big nest, with enough bedrooms and bathrooms and guest rooms and entertainment rooms to join the Marriott family of properties. But when she and her husband, Steve, got tired of texting "Where R U?" even when they were under the same roof, they decided to downsize.

So a couple of weeks ago, Ted and I packed our masks and hand sanitizer and went to see their new digs. Man, are they impressive! Lovely open floor plan, wine fridge, billiards room, enough bedrooms for all the kids to visit at once, and even a guest room so we weren't sleeping on a sofa bed. They have a ginormous flat-screen television and Internet speed so fast that you have to wear a seatbelt. They live within

walking distance of a shopping and dining district that offers an Italian grocer, a brewery, and a restaurant that only sells pie. Pie! So when Lisa was excited to show me something



Kim von Keller

in her back-door neighbor's yard, I couldn't guess what would make her so envious. Was it a tiki bar? Was the yard overrun with puppies? Was

her movie-star crush, Daniel Craig, a/k/a James Bond, painting the fence? No, no, and no.

The feature that she was so impressed with was a permanent cornhole court.

Dang.

I was pretty surprised at first. Like me, she's never cared much for cornhole, but the more I thought about it, the more it seemed like cornhole should be named the Official Pastime of 2020. After all, what other activity allows you to get together with friends but requires you all to remain seriously socially distant?

If you're not familiar with cornhole, it is a game played by two individuals or teams of two. Cornhole boards are 48 x 24 inches in size, with a 6-inch hole at the top. The boards are set 27 feet apart. Each contestant or team is given four beanbags. Standing beside one board, contestants throw the beanbags toward the opposite board. The object of the game is to land a beanbag on the board (1 point) or throw the beanbag through the hole (3 points). At least, that's what the

American Cornhole Association, the game's official governing body, says. From what I've seen, the object of cornhole is to hang out in shorts and t-shirts, trash talk, and drink beer.

Which is why the game gets my nomination for America's Official Pastime. In 2020, nothing is easy, from the way we work to the way we shop to the way we socialize. In cornhole, on the other hand, everything is easy: You simply stand up and throw things and repeat. You can purchase your own cornhole set, or you could make your own. (This is also easy. Ted and our daughter, Elizabeth, made a set once, working in a tight space while using power tools. They made two beautiful boards, they still speak to each other, and they still have all their limbs.) You can stash the boards in the garage when they're not in use or go all Type-A and mark

off a permanent designated court. Throw in some snacks – in individual bowls, of course, so everybody's germly little hands aren't reaching into the same bowl – and it's almost like being in 2019 again.

If you've never played cornhole, I advise you to take up the game. It is an easy, fun, and safe way to socialize. If you haven't played in a while, drag that set out of the basement. Invite a couple of friends over and blow off some COVID steam. I know my sister is looking forward to an invitation to play at her new neighbor's house. Now, if we can just get an invitation for Daniel Craig as well...

What backyard pastime have you enjoyed most over the last few months, and who would your dream partner be? Let me know at edit-kim50@gmail.com.



THE ORIGINAL AUGUST BAND

L to R: Gregg Cheek, Larry Wilson, Mike Shirley, Butch Bowen, Steve Hopper, Ann Jones, Richard Manley, Bill Jones. According to Butch Bowen, Steve Hopper had rented a lake house where the photo was taken. The house had no electricity and only well water. "We were in hippie mode back then", says Bowen.

(Photo by Van Sullivan and courtesy of Butch Bowen)

Freddie and the discipline committee

BY ANN BAILES

With the unusual start to this school year, I'm taking a break from bird articles and sharing something unrelated from more normal times. It's been a long time ago, but I remember this incident well, and with a smile.

Freddie was a seventh grader during my first year teaching in a private junior high school in Greenville. Freddie was short and chubby, had a bed-head every morning, and was completely incapable of getting everything he needed — book, homework, pencil, and paper — to math class on any day. I won't even go into his inability to get there on time. I would talk with him almost daily, gently but firmly admonishing him with "Freddie, why can't you bring everything you need to class?" He would scrunch up his face, chin wobbling, tears rolling out, pudgy fingers interlaced going in and out, and sob "I don't know! I just don't know!"

I would stand in front of him, trying to say the right words, and think, "Nothing, not one thing from all those college education classes,

has prepared me for what to do with Freddie." (Probably every teacher reading this can empathize about some similar student.)

One day several months into the year, Freddie had to meet the discipline committee, made up of an administrator and two teachers. We only met for major disciplinary situations or for students who had an accumulation of minor offenses. Freddie was probably going to the D.C. for all those tardies, but I really don't remember. It doesn't seem like it was anything major.

I do remember, as clearly as if it were yesterday, the sight that greeted the three of us on the committee when Freddie walked in. We immediately deduced his strategy.

He was carrying a Bible. Not a regular sized one, or a small Testament, but a huge, coffee-table-sized, family Bible. It was almost as big as he was. Freddie hopped onto his chair and sat down with his book on his lap, then folded those pudgy little sausage fingers together, resting them on top of that gigantic Bible. He then bowed his head. He

was calmly awaiting his death sentence.

The P.E. teacher suddenly had a coughing fit and had to briefly leave the room. The administrator had to hold his hand over the lower part of his face. Even I, used to dealing with Freddie every day, had a hard time keeping a straight face at the sight of that boy who hoped that bringing a huge Bible would make a good impression on us.

The administrator gave him a talk, meted out a punishment (probably a detention or whatever we did back then), and dismissed Freddie and his family Bible. As soon as the door was shut we all let loose with the laughs we'd been holding in. It's a great memory for this old veteran.

Here's to all the teachers who are going back into unusual situations this fall. It's my 41st year and I've never faced anything remotely similar to this year's circumstances. God bless teachers everywhere as we forge ahead to do the best possible job for the students who need us, even for — especially for — the Freddie's in our classrooms.



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'White lightning'

BY RICH OTTER

A fifty-one page collection of Anderson memories was recently discovered by Bill Thompson among his papers that appears to be unpublished and it is unknown who actually composed the collection. There is a stamped name and address thereon of Mrs. J. L. White, presumably the spouse of Jim White who had a popular fish market in the City of Anderson. It has not been determined who actually wrote it but Roy Ethridge has speculated Jim White may have written it as he had an acute interest in Anderson history.

The excerpts appear to have been first hand recollections from the late 1920s until

at least 1978 and it is a document that should be published in its entirety if its source can be identified. The following is largely taken from one of the numerous reflections. (Quotation marks reflect direct quotes from the text.)

There was a section of Anderson on Quinn Street near the Glenn Street School that was known as Little Texas that included two grocery stores, two cafes, a barber shop, a meat market and "several bootleggers." It "was the favorite gathering place for every 'rough neck' or 'jail bait' type for miles around." It was during the depression and craps games and various card games were alleged to be in progress in back rooms and there "was an ample supply of



Louie Brock, Charles Broome, Harold Huff and George Smith

'white lightning' (high potency corn whiskey) at all times and as a rule most of the crowds hanging around were half or more drunk."

Fights were common and an occasional killing. "Back in those days almost every man, good and bad, carried a pocket knife at all times; these were often used in these fights and spectators rarely attempted to intervene as this was considered 'meddling.'"

It was reported the demand was great during prohibition for corn liquor which was sold by small retailers. "Practically all of the whiskey that was sold around Anderson was made by stills located in the mountains of S.C. and north Georgia. Most of the middlemen were one-car operators but a few had several specially 'souped-up, heavy-spring' cars and serviced larger territories."

The still operator was said to have often had

a deal with the local sheriff for "safe conduct" with a customary fee of \$50 per month. Occasionally an operator would be caught and a search warrant was not at that time necessary. The car and contraband could be confiscated and later the car would be sold, the liquor poured out "(some of it), and the culprit usually fined two or three hundred dollars, sometimes with a light time sentence like six months or a year." The sentence might have depended upon whether there had been a payoff.

Certainly the production of moonshine did not stop with the end of Prohibition, retaining some popularity and, for that matter, now produced under legal auspice. Not reported in the mysterious document, one interesting situation occurred in 1956 when the foreman of the Anderson County Grand Jury, C. D. Marett, discovered a liquor still, complete with boiler, condenser and barrels on his property. He offered that the owner could reclaim the property by notifying him. For some reason, the offer was not accepted.

After a raid in the City of Anderson that ruined a 1968 New Year's Eve celebration, some of the prisoners were used to dispose of the confiscated liquor by pouring it down a drain behind City Hall. They vociferously claimed that making them do so was "cruel and unusual punishment." A suit, however, was never instituted against the City. These days the prisoners probably could win it.

Amici opens in renovated building in downtown Easley

EASLEY — Residents of Easley, take note, because there's a new flavor in town. Amici is proud to announce their newest location located at 121 South Pendleton Street in beautiful downtown Easley is now open for business.

Franchise owners are thrilled to bring the popular restaurant concept, known for its pizza and hot wings, to Easley and its surrounding area, near and dear to the heart of both Ferrante Johnson as well as his wife and business partner, Stephanie Johnson.

"We both graduated not far from here at Clemson and we are both extremely excited to be bringing the Amici pizza, wings, and friends experience here," he says. "There's a lot of history to the building here on Pendleton Street, which many residents will remember from their childhood as the local hardware store. It was originally a grocery store, and the blueprints are stamped December 8, 1941 — the day after the Pearl Harbor attack."

Amici has opened the first brewery in



Easley. They welcome all craft beer connoisseurs to come in for a taste seven days a week. The beers will change out periodically, and Amici will offer new flavors. They're presently brewing an Amber Ale, Mexican Lager, IPA and a Hefeweizen.

Amici Food Group, LLC is based in Madison, Ga., where the very first Amici opened back in 1993. Easley will be the 10th location and the seventh franchise, and the company is growing.

"The Amici concept is rooted in small-town America because that's where it started," says CEO Mike Torino. "We like to think of ourselves as your living room away from home. It's where you go to enjoy a dinner with your family or sit around the bar with friends and watch the game."

"Keep your eye on us, because we're growing and big things are happening," Torino continues. "This isn't the last time we'll be making an announcement about opening a new location." Amici currently has nine stores in operation — Madison, Covington, Conyers, Lake Oconee, Milledgeville, Macon, Monroe, and Athens (all in the state of Georgia), and Clemson. A Fayetteville, Ga., location is on track to open later this year.

We look forward to serving you!



Amici franchisees Ferrante and Stephanie Johnson

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MUSINGS OF AN OLE BALL COACH

MY BIBLE TEACHING JOURNEY

I taught a Sunday School class last Sunday. But before I divulge the contents, allow me to relate my almost lifetime odyssey of teaching Sunday School (Bible Class).

It started in earnest at Clio Baptist Church in 1958, Joyce and I started our married life in this quaint little town on the banks of the Pee Dee River in Marlboro County. We had three rooms and a bath upstairs in a splendid old southern manor with a great porch and a grand piano that Joyce loved to play. Miss Elizabeth, our landlord charged us like \$65.00 a month. Joyce taught at Clio High and I a 10 mile commute to Bennettsville High. A block away was the century old church replete with a fine front portico entrance Clio was no metropolis and I taught like four or five 9th grade boys.

Our next stop in 1960 was the cosmopolitan, horse and polo, golf, and former winter residence of the rich and famous, Aiken. We

once again joined The First Baptist Church, who claimed as one of its parishioners, former governor and longest serving U.S. senator, Strom Thurmond. The church was a 100



Jim Fraser

year old edifice built in the opera house style. When we left Aiken 8 years later, we were housed in a spanking new Williamsburg type structure. It was there I gravitated to teaching 9th grade boys again. The other teacher of these young guys, Henderson

John, a local attorney and state legislator would sometimes combine our classes and have a rousing Sunday morning teaching session.

Upon moving to Anderson we once again joined First Baptist that had another opera

style auditorium. This was also replaced with another Williamsburg type structure. Unique to both Aiken and Anderson were their on campus graveyards where I spent countless hours perusing the many ancient tombstones. The ultra-successful Coach Gilly Simmons and the inimitable T. Ree McCoy conspired with me to teach Anderson youngsters.

My great situation came to a screeching halt in the 70's when my new superintendent insisted I attend her weekly Wednesday night meetings. I protested that the 3 hats I wore at Hanna sometimes prohibited my attendance and when they didn't, I needed that time to diffuse and have family time. She fired me over my protestant. What a disappointment because my son Chuck would have been in my next class.

My talents lay dormant until 2003 when I signed on to teach ladies and men's classes at First Presbyterian.

Now to the lesson. We studied the World's dominant religions - Buddhism, Confucianism, Mohammedanism (Islam, Muslim), Hinduism, Taoism, Shintoism, Judaism and Christianity. All of them have as one of their basic tenets the belief that if your love of things supersedes your love of worship

and a desire to help others, then your god will become a desire to accumulate these things.

All teach that if you adhere to the precept that all you want is faster horses, older whiskey and younger women, that will become your master. If you don't love your God over mammon you will be doomed to not receive your reward in your heaven. You'll also have a selfish and unfulfilled life. Also they all teach love, that there is a higher power, a life here after and a Golden Rule.

I've probably taught, or attempted, hundred of lessons. They have made my life's journey more complete. I only hope that all my students from the 9th grade guys to Annie Geer, who just turned a 100 years old, have benefited as much as I have.

Jim Fraser was the athletic director and head football coach at T.L. Hanna High School from 1968-1985. He was also a full time member of the faculty who taught U.S. History.



1961 first day of school timeline

I was six years old, and the timeline starts on the weekend prior to my first day at Kennedy Street School in Anderson S.C.



Neal Parnell

Saturday Sept. 2

I was taken to McCombs barber shop for a G.I. (Government Issue) haircut.

Then hauled into J.C. Penny for jeans that had the pant legs rolled up six inches and would fit a twelve year old. Also

fitted with a new pair of patent leather Buster Brown shoes that I would grow into, but would be worn out in two weeks.

Sunday Sept. 3

In the evening I was subjected to the "wash cycle", and scrubbed until I glowed a healthy pink. Ears cleaned, nails clipped, then wrapped in cellophane till morning.

Monday Sept. 4

6:00am Ordered out of bed, fed breakfast, brushed teeth, and had the next layer of epidermis scrubbed from my face.

7:00am Dressed in the new clothes and ordered not to move an inch.

7:30am...Loaded into backseat of car like fresh folded laundry and ordered not to move an inch.

7:45am...Kennedy Street School in sight, I see an eight foot fence and caged children.

8:00am...Forcefully tugged up the steps while screaming and crying uncontrollably.



8:02am...Broke free and escaped to the car.

8:03am...Forcefully tugged up the steps while screaming and crying uncontrollably.

8:05am...Guarded, and stood before principal Brown who said, "It'll be ok".

8:06am.. Mother turns and walks back toward front doors.

8:06:10sec. I attempt to follow, picked up from behind by Principal Brown.

8:06:15sec. I scream and kick my new heels into Principal Browns' shins.

8:06:20sec. Principal Brown drops me and grabs his shins grimacing in pain.

8:06:25sec. I burst through the front doors, grab my mother's hand, and head home.

5:20pm..... Daddy home , and hears of my rebellion.

5:21pm..... Daddy has belt in hand staring at me.

5:22pm..... "Do you want to be in that school tomorrow standing or sitting?"

5:22:01sec.. Sitting Sir.

COLD DRINKS * GREAT FOOD
GOOD TIMES

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NIBBLE & SIP

Easy peasy lemon squeezy

Although we only have a couple of weeks of summer left, we probably have a couple of months of summer weather ahead. That means plenty of time to enjoy outdoor activities, especially in our back yards. So if you're getting together with family or friends for a fun activity like horseshoes, badminton, cornhole, or bocce, you want to make sure your Nibble and Sip is something casual and easy.

I'd start with a snack mix. If the activity you're engaging in involves tossing a beanbag or hitting a shuttlecock, you don't need a frou-frou whatzit that has 20 ingredients and takes hours in the oven. The Original Ranch Snack Mix has 5 ingredients, and the only tool you need is a plastic bag. If you're serving people who aren't part of your regular household, make sure everyone gets his or her own bowl of snack mix. I don't want to see your picture on WYFF for being a

COVID-19 super-spreader.

To wash it down, make sure to offer the Spaghett. I'm not talking about liquid pasta, and this is not a misspelling. It's actually a summer beverage that first appeared on a menu at Wet City Brewing in Baltimore,



Kim von Keller

and the recipe has been making its way across the Internet ever since. It has three ingredients, and the only tool you need is a jigger or a measuring spoon.

The Spaghett is made of Miller High Life, Aperol, and lemon juice. I am not kidding. Like driving past a train wreck, I was both horrified and intrigued when I read about it. I was not about to go to any effort or expense to make this, and since I

didn't have any of "The Champagne of Beers" in my refrigerator, I used a nice lager instead. The combination of the crisp lager, the bitter Aperol, and the tart lemon juice made for a surprisingly remarkable drink, cold and refreshing and perfect for an afternoon in the back yard. Combined with the snack mix, this is an entire Nibble and Sip that can be made in a matter of minutes. Easy peasy lemon squeezy!

- Original Ranch Snack Mix
 2 ½ c. crisp corn or wheat cereal squares (I like Chex.)
 2 ½ c. small pretzels
 2 ½ c. small cheddar crackers (I like Cheez-Its.)
 3 T. vegetable oil
 5 t. Hidden Valley Ranch Seasoning and Salad Dressing Mix (powdered, not prepared)
 Combine the cereal squares, pretzels, and cheese crackers in a gallon-size plastic storage bag with



a zipper top. Pour the oil over the mixture, seal the bag, and shake gently until all the pieces are coated. Add the dressing mix, seal the bag again, and shake gently until coated. Serves 10

- Spaghett
 1 12-oz. bottle Miller High Life or your favorite lager beer, well chilled
 1 oz. Aperol

½ oz. lemon juice
 Open the bottle of beer, and pour in the Aperol and lemon juice. Give the ingredients a few seconds to settle, and serve ice-cold. (If Queen Elizabeth II or your mother-in-law is coming for cornhole, pour all ingredients into a pint glass and give them a gentle stir. Serves 1
 Do you have an intriguing idea for a Nibble or Sip? Share it with me at edikim50@gmail.com.

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THE GARDEN SHOP

Busy, savvy salvia



SUSAN TEMPLE
master gardener

I find myself sitting at the kitchen table getting such pleasure looking out the window at the garden. This is a relatively new habit. Most sitting and staring is done on the screened porch, looking at the back yard. My faithful four legged companion and I have our weekend coffee and milk bones looking out the kitchen window. We used to watch the morning news but decided to turn that mess off. We can see up the driveway and across to the woods. We also sit at the kitchen table and stare out when it's too hot to go outside. It's so pleasant to see butterflies, hummingbirds, bees, birds, and more, enjoying the garden too. There are a few shrubs in the front garden but it's mostly perennials and reseeding annuals. I'm slowly adding a few evergreen shrubs so the garden is not totally bare in winter.



Hot lips salvia

A never fail plant that hummingbirds and bees love is salvia. There are plenty of choices for smaller gardens to ones that have room for anything. I've found sometimes sizes on tags are not totally true. An average size seems to be two to three feet tall and wide. Some will say four feet tall. These sizes may be true if the plant is tended and not allowed to have branches touch the ground. But for those of



Kitchen table view

us who generally let Mother Nature do her thing, wherever salvia microphylla types touch the ground, they will root a new plant. Several areas in my garden have salvias that have formed clumps six feet or more.

A few varieties in my garden are hot lips with white and red flowers, watermelon with flowers the color of a watermelon, san carlos festival with reddish flowers, amethyst with fuchsia, sort of purple flowers. Salvia greggii types are very similar and if grown together, they often cross pollinate. I suppose because of this, and me forgetting to keep track of the name, there are some that I do not have a clue what they are. Microphylla salvias are native to southeast Arizona and Mexico. Greggii types are native to southwest Texas and Mexico. So

I suppose we could call them kissing cousins.

What I know for sure is they bloom from early summer practically until frost. Stems stay during the winter. They do not die all the way back. I only prune them when they need cleaning up and to keep their size in check. It is very easy to root new plants by layering a stem or just by waiting for it to happen naturally. That limb can then be cut from the mother plant, the new one dug up and moved to another spot in the garden. They are drought tolerant but do not pout if we have a lot of rain either. Blooms may decrease a bit without a lot of sunshine. And knock on wood...deer have never even browsed any of my plants. The foliage has a strong fragrance which I suppose they find disagreeable.



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We're all in this together

Although our collective experiences over the past year are unique and diverse, the one thing we can all agree on is that the "Covid-19" era has created a great deal of change, disruption, adversity, and uncertainty. Despite it all, we now find ourselves leaving our sheltered "quarantined" lives and heading back to work, while some of our children are preparing to return to "face-to-face" classroom learning- masks and all. While few of us would argue that getting our "normal" lives back is a bad thing, our gut also tells us that the hectic schedules we knew prior to "Covid 19" is about to morph into something even crazier and more intense.

As a first-grade teacher and mother of two school-aged children and a baby, I've been actively searching for ways to keep myself organized- although a little chaos is likely unavoidable. If any of these thoughts have crossed your mind recently, I would like to share one "tried and true" method that has consistently helped keep our household running efficiently and effectively for many years. While my suggestion is not a "secret" or "new invention", I have found that a carefully developed and comprehensive "chores chart" is the best way to keep your life organized and running smooth. So far, this interactive tool has greatly helped our family complete everyday chores and respon-

sibilities by holding everyone responsible and accountable for their assigned part.

If this idea is new to you, or if you haven't tried it in a while, it may be an option worth considering. To help you get started, here are a few tips that have worked great for my family:



Katie Laughridge

• Begin assigning chores as early as possible- even at the age of two. The earlier you start, the more your child will benefit.

• Create a "chores chart" of things that need to be done each day. Considering the age of you children, determine which chores each can realistically perform.

• Don't be "stingy" with praise! Don't wait until the chore is done; praise and encourage your child while the chore is in progress. This will build possible momentum- especially with young children.

• Don't expect perfection. The point is to teach your child responsibility, not to judge them based on their skills. It is a good idea to

take time to model the proper way to perform a task, and gradually teach them how to do it better. Being critical is "counterproductive" and instills lack of confidence.

• Be precise and keep it simple! Instead of general things like "straighten up your room" or "clean up the kitchen", say more precise things like "make your bed", "take your dishes to the sink", and "put your toys in their appropriate bins".

• You may also consider using your chores chart to teach your child how to be kind and considerate to others. The chores chart in our home contains a "Do something nice for someone" section.

It's amazing how useful it is to have little

hands helping you around the house. Not only is it a great way to get a lot of things done, being responsible for daily chores also gives your child confidence and helps them feel like they are an important part of the family. When creating your own chores list, there are many helpful resources you can easily find on-line and in books. It's also important to involve the entire family when creating your chores list. The more "ownership" each family member feels while the chores list is being created, the more committed they will be in completing their assigned duties each day.

"If you've got the confidence and the work ethic, you can make any dream come true."

Bret Hart

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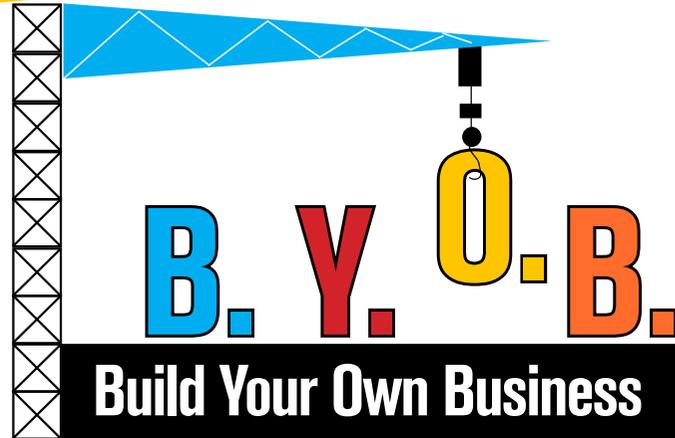
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