Bly Lines

News, Notes and Revelations from St. John's Blymire's United Church of Christ

June 2023

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From the Pastor's Keyboard

I recently asked our Coordinating Ministries Team what would be missed by people in the community if St. John's Blymire's Church would no longer exist. There were a variety of answers, many of which centered around the activities that we have that foster fellowship and outside involvement.

What do <u>you</u> think? What would <u>you</u> miss if our church were not around? Would there be fewer or no worship and spiritual growth opportunities for you? Would there be a hole in your life? What kind of preaching would you yearn for?

Yes, what kind of preaching and worshiping and fellowshipping are important for you, and which would you miss if they were not in your life, as you continue to grow in your walk with the Lord?

As we move through our interim time together and as you continue to discern the qualities you are looking for in your new settled pastor or shared ministry team, what kind of preaching is important for us as a church family?

I think Oswald Chambers helps us answer that question by first encouraging us to look at 1 Peter 4:17: For the time has come for judgment to begin with the household of God; if it begins with us, what will be the end for those of us who do not obey the gospel of God?

Chambers states that we Christians must never forget that salvation is God's idea, not ours; therefore, it has an unfathomable depth. Salvation is the great thought of God, not a feeling or experience. Feelings and experiences are simply the doors though which salvation comes into the conscious level of our lives so that we are aware of what has taken place on a much deeper level. Chambers goes on to say that preachers should never preach the feelings or experiences; but rather, preachers should preach the great thought of God behind the feelings and experiences. In other words, when I and other preachers preach, we are not simply proclaiming how we can be saved from hell and be made moral and pure (as important as that is); we are conveying good news about God.

In the teachings of Jesus Christ, and as expressed in the 1 Peter verse above, the element of judgment is always brought out – it is the sign of the love of God. Jesus does not call us preachers or any of us to sympathize with someone who finds it difficult to get to God; God is not to blame. It is not for us to try to figure out the reason for that person's difficulty, but only to present the truth of God so that the Spirit of God will reveal what is wrong. Chambers maintains that the greatest test of one's preaching is whether or not it brings everyone to judgment (not our judgment, but God's). When the truth is preached,

the Spirit of God brings each person face to face with God Himself. Elsewhere in his writings, Chambers says that as we meet God face to face and start to align our lives with the standards of Jesus, preachers need to remind us that we are not asked to believe the Bible per se, but to believe the One whom the Bible reveals (John 5:39-40).

Chambers states that preachers need to convey that if Jesus ever commanded us to do something that He was unable to equip us to accomplish, He would be a liar. And if we make our own apparent inabilities stumbling blocks or excuses not to be obedient to God, it means that we are telling God that there is something which He has not yet taken into consideration. Every element of our self-reliance needs to be put to death by the power of God. The moment we recognize our complete weakness and our dependence upon God is the very moment that the Spirit of God exhibits His power.

Please let me know if I can help you as you continue to let go of control of your life and open yourself more and more to depending upon God alone and to God's calling and equipping of your unique and precious life.

And may all of us continue to open ourselves to what God has in store for our lives together at Blymire's Church as we continue to support and participate in our new and reactivated activities, such as Messy Church, livestreaming, the Circle of Grace, FUN Team, Bible Study, and vocal and bell choirs (the latter two will be taking a hiatus for the summer). As I have mentioned before, I also ask that we all continue to celebrate and support our interim tasks – determining what we need to change or tweak about our church's Constitution and By-Laws, establishing active and affiliated church membership lists, looking for a new home for Emmanuel's Closet, continuing our caring responses to local and wider church needs, and starting the work of the Profile Committee and eventually the Search Committee.

I also ask that you prayerfully remember the questions that we have been asking all during our interim period together: Who are we as St. John's Blymire's United Church of Christ? Who are our neighbors? Who is God calling us to become as we journey into God's future? What is our unique niche here in Dallastown?

See you around this month of June! God bless, Pastor Rick



The public is invited to join us in the pavilion behind our church for an outdoor concert series featuring a variety of different types of music. The concerts will be held on Sunday afternoons from 2:00-4:00 PM.

In case of inclement weather, they will be moved indoors to the church. There is no admission charge, but a free will offering will be taken. Snacks will be available for purchase.

Bring your own lawn chairs or blankets or sit at one of our picnic tables. Below is a list of concerts for 2023

> JUNE 25 - SPRING GARDEN BAND (Patriotic music)

JULY 23 - TIMELESS (50's and 60's rock and roll)

AUGUST 6 - RED LION FELTON BAND (Traditional band music)

SEPTEMBER 3- FIRST CAPITAL BRASS (Brass ensemble)

If you have any questions, please call the church office at (717) 244-0655.

MONTH OF SUNDAYS WORSHIP SERVICES-JUNE 2023

JUNE 4, 2023 – TRINITY SUNDAY, CELEBRATING PENTECOST, AND HOLY COMMUNION

Scripture: Acts 2:4-24 and Matthew 28:16-20 Message: Dramatic Skit "The Church is Burning!" J. Fairweather

JUNE 11, 2023 – SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST- MUSIC SUNDAY

Scripture: Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26 Message: Music of the Congregation, Choir and Bell Ringers

JUNE 18, 2023 – THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – FATHER'S DAY

Scripture: Matthew 9:35-10:23 Message: "God Calls and Doesn't Forget to Equip" Scriptural Theme: God equips us with compassion, divine authority, and the good news of God's Kingdom

JUNE 25, 2023 – FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Scripture: Matthew 10:24-39 Message: Guest speaker from the Gideons We will have a special offering for the Gideons

JULY 2, 2023 – FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST– CELEBRATING FOURTH OF JULY HOLIDAY WEEKEND SUNDAY

Scripture: Matthew 10:40-42

Message: "Freedom, Welcome, Help"

Scriptural Theme: How should each – our country and our church – focus on and offer freedom, welcome, and help? How are our country and our church similar and how are they different?



June 18 - Timeless June 25 - Tim & Tina July 2 - Mandy Streavig July 9 - Kenny Runkle & Hillbilly Heaven July 16 - Sunny Side Gang July 23 - Tom Ensminger July 30 - Mandy Streavig August 6 - Deb Counts August 13 - New Life for Girls August 20 - Dennis Kohler August 27 - Rita Persing September 3 - Geraldine "Deanie" King

<u>JUNE</u> <u>BIRTHDAYS</u>



May God

Bless You On

Your

Birthday!

- 1. Debbie Boyd
- 2. Jenna Woerner
- 3. Michael Barley
- 9. Matthew Boyd Chase Morton Sandy Brown Wanda Gobat
- 10. David Cress
- 13. Aria Shane Joseph Klyeman
- 14. Gaeton Contino
- 15. Dolores Barley Richard Forbes
- 18. Mike Axe
- 19. Elsie Ewell
- 20. Ida Michael
- 22. Sharon Criswell Gunther Knickel
- 23. Ashlyn Innerst
- 24 Wyatt Myers
- 25. Sandy Innerst
- 26. Carol Gingerich Jeremiah Rayhart

	<u>CELEBRATING JUNE ANNIVERSARIES</u>
	June 3 - Keith & Beth Markey - 51 years
	June 5 - Kimberly & Tracey Dilling - 10 years
	June 13 - Patrick and Erin Michaels - 14 years
	June 18 - Doug & Linda King - 58 years
	June 19 - David and Maranda Morton - 24 years
	June 20 - Carl and Sharon Criswell - 53 years
	June 22 - Tarrence and Sandra Ness - 27 years
	June 25 - Sterling and Debra Boyd - 17 years
	June 28 - James and Jean McDowell - 54 years
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FINANCIAL REPORT

Undesignated General Fund

Red Brick Chapel

Cemetery

Month-2023	Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Income	Expense	
January	\$10,823.00	\$9,149.59	\$0.30	\$612.18	\$738.24	\$200.00	
February	\$7,242.25	\$9,309.43	\$0.22	\$338.98	\$0.12	\$375.34	
March	\$8,179.00	\$13,350.64	\$0.29	\$702.79	\$900.10	\$328.10	
April	\$9,009.22	\$7,960.45	\$625.31	\$351.05	\$101.05	\$1,293.75	
Мау							
June							
July							
August							
September							
October							
November							
December							
Total	\$35,253.47	\$39,770.11	\$626.12	\$2,005.00	\$1,739.51	\$2,197.19	

Balance of Undesignated General Fund @ May 1, 2023

Balance of Red Brick Chapel Fund @ May 1, 2023 (Includes \$58,096.91 Endowment)

Balance of Cemetery Fund @ May 1, 2023 (Includes \$822,721.20 CD's, Trusts, UCC Foundation) \$10,444.37

\$60,183.85

\$833,295.34

Financial Assistance Given through Hand of Hope Fund - 2023

	#	Total	Monthly		Available	
	Families	\$\$\$	Donations		Balance	
Beginning					\$	806.82
January	3	\$576.00	\$	151.00	\$	381.82
February	1	\$150.00	\$	80.00	\$	311.82
March	1	\$25.00	\$	30.00	\$	316.82
April	2	\$50.00	\$	28.00	\$	294.82
Мау						
June						
July						
August						
September						
October						
November						
December						
Total	7	\$801.00	\$	289.00		

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS and those in need of PRAYER

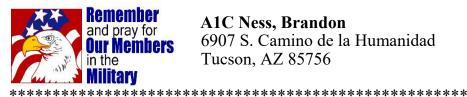
Peggy Luckenbaugh Room 704B Colonial Manor Nursing Home 970 Colonial Avenue York, PA 17403



Keeping in our prayers **Dolores Barley** Jeanette Black **Cindie McKinsey Friends battling cancer Covid 19 patients**

Linda Trone Room 604 **Colonial Manor Nursing Home** 970 Colonial Avenue York. PA 17403

Carolyn Innerst Room 123 Senior Commons@Powder Mill 1775 Powder Mill Road York. PA 17403



A1C Ness, Brandon 6907 S. Camino de la Humanidad Tucson, AZ 85756



Dallastown Area High School

Madison Dewees, great niece of Holly Gingerich and Beth Gurreri, received her high school diploma on May 26. She will be attending York College where she plans to major in nursing.

Joppa Towne High School

Meet Our Graduates

Kendall Rodriguez, daughter of Brian and Kelly Adams and granddaughter of Ed and Barb Adams, will receive her high school diploma on May 31. While in school she played soccer and was manager of the baseball team. She received the Joppa Towne High School female Mariner award for sports. Kendall plans to attend Chestnut Hill College in Philadelphia, majoring in forensic biology.

York College

Emily Adams, daughter of Chris and Karen Adams and granddaughter of Ed and Barb Adams, received her Bachelor of Science degree in Special Education and Elementary Education on December 14, 2022. She is working as an autistic support teacher for grades K-3 in the Hanover School District for LIU.

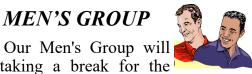
Penn State University

Amber Smith, daughter of Chad and Julie Smith and granddaughter of Rodney and Linda Eichelberger, graduated on May 6 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Corporate Innovation and Entrepreneurship. She was on the Dean's List at Penn State and completed an internship at Saxby's Café (PSU). Amber also worked at Saxby's, helped with Thon, and was a member of a service sorority. She will be starting a job in Tampa, Florida in August.

> We congratulate these graduates upon the completion of their studies and wish them well as they begin the next phase of their lives.



MEN'S GROUP



be taking a break for the summer. See you all in September.



Our third chicken BBQ of the season will be held on Saturday, June 10, from 11:00 AM-1:00 PM. You will get a 1/2 chicken, baked potato, applesauce, roll and butter all for \$10.00. To place an order, please call the church office 244-0655. We sold out early nearly every month last summer, so to be guaranteed a dinner, it is best to pre-order. Other BBQ's will be held on the 2nd Saturday of each month thru October.

We are also planning to set up a bake sale table and would welcome donations of cookies, rice krispie homemade treats. cupcakes, candy, etc. Please put individual portions in baggies or plastic wrap. They may be dropped off at the church the day before or the morning of the BBQ. Thank you.



Over the summer Wanda will be working on updating our members directory. If anything has changed **D**(in your household or if you wish to add any additional information from what is included in the yellow 2021 directory, please let her know by June 30. We have discovered that many members no longer have landlines and rely solely on cell phones. If that is the case, let us know so we can eliminate the landline in the directory. Also if you see incorrect information for any family members, please let us know. We want the directory to be as accurate as possible. Thank you.

The playground has received fresh mulch and is ready for use.

The playground has received needed mulching! It has been quite some time since the last mulching. Many thanks to Sterling Boyd for helping with site preparation, Keith Markey for transporting and helping to spread the mulch. And the Mens Group for taking care of the financing.

MESSY CHURCH

What is Messy Church? It's church, but not as you know it! Messy Church is a form of family church for children and



adults. It involves creativity, celebration and hospitality! It's church for people of any age and at all stages of their faith journey. If traditional church is no longer a part of your life, come try out Messy Church!

Our next Messy Church gathering will be held June 9, from 6:00-8:00 PM. The theme will be Celebrate Summer. Come join us for pizza, bingo and fun!



If you haven't been in the Book Room lately, check it out. New titles are coming in on a regular basis and you never know what interesting things you may find. In addition to hundreds of books, there are also DVD's, magazines, games, and puzzles.

CARD and **GAME** CLUB

We have started a group to play card, and board games here at the church. Everyone is welcome, and if you don't know



how to play certain games, there will be someone who can teach you. You can bring lunch or order in.

We will meet the second Wednesday of each month starting at 11:00 AM and playing until people are ready to stop. Our next meeting will be June 14.



The Fun Team is creating a new church cookbook and needs your help. We are asking you to gather your favorite recipes and give them to Sandy Innerst or Cindy Innerst-Axe. Thank you.





GOD HAS THE EYES OF A FATHER

Matthew 14:14 says, "He had compassion on them." When Matthew writes that Jesus had compassion on people, he's not saying that Jesus felt casual pity for them. Matthew is saying that Jesus felt their hurt in his gut. He felt the limp of the disabled, he felt the hurt of the diseased, he felt the loneliness of the leper, he felt the embarrassment of the sinful. And once he *felt* their hurts, he couldn't help but *heal* their hurts.

He was so touched by their needs that he forgot his own needs. He was so moved by the people's hurts that he put his hurts on the back burner.

God sees with the eyes of a father. He sees our defects, errors, and blemishes. But he also sees our value. Maybe that's why God brings hurting people into your world, too.

Max Lucado



Stop comparing yourself to others. Flowers are pretty but so are sunsets and they look nothing alike! Some minds are like concrete; thoroughly mixed up and permanently set.

Live for today but hold your hands open to tomorrow. Anticipate the future and its changes with joy. There is a seed of God's love in every event, every circumstance, every unpleasant situation in which you may find yourself.

Barbara Johnson

GOOD VIBRATIONS

My dad died unexpectedly at age 78, leaving our family heartbroken. During the funeral mass, my sister felt her phone vibrate in her purse. She was a little surprised that someone would be calling her, knowing she was at dad's funeral mass. Afterward, she found there was a message: "Hi, this is your dad," said the male voice. "I wanted to let you know I made it home." The caller obviously had the wrong number, but the message was clear. My dad had completed his journey to heaven and wanted us to know. Thanks, Dad until we meet again.

by Nancy Perkins, St. Johns, Michigan

DON'T MISS YOUR OWN PARTY

You know that feeling, when you have cleaned, cooked and prepared for a big family get-together or party? You bustle around doing everything and making sure everyone has a wonderful time and when you finally do get the chance to sit down and relax with your guests, the party's over... Don't let that be the metaphor for your life. Don't let the moment you finally relax be a moment too late...

I guess what I am trying to say my friend is, don't miss your own party because you wanted everyone to else to have the best time. Now is the time to sit down, take a beat and chat with a friend or loved one. Now is the time to eat, break bread and be merry. Now is the time to be fully here. Fully present. Enjoying. Experiencing. Living. Not after, not when 'everything is perfect'. The dishes can wait, this is your party, your life. *You're invited too.*

Donna Ashworth



"Fathers are those who give daughters away to young men who are not qualified to receive them, but who then produce the smartest grandchildren in the world."

Paul Harvey

GRANDFATHERS

Grandfathers are a special breed Of kinfolk, all their own. They love you and hug you, And spoil you to death. And then, they send you home.

by Joyce C. Lock

You have changed thousands of lives without even knowing it... a smile, a touch, a word.

> Believe it! Ken McArthur





MESSY CHURCH IS GREAT! Come check it out sometime!



Pause and remember: If you empty yourself of yesterday's sorrows, you will have much more room for today's joy.

Jenni Young

LITTLE ACTS OF LIGHT

Each summer my sister-in-law and her kids spend a month visiting family in Michigan. One of the highlights of the summer for her kids and for all of us who watch them, is backyard evenings spent catching fireflies. They don't see fireflies at their home out west, so chasing the glowing bugs and filling a jar to watch them up close is one of their favorite Michigan summer activities. We love watching the kids' joy as they chase the bugs, capture them in their little hands and peek through their fingers to see the glow.

When I feel overwhelmed by depression and anxiety or weighed down by the heavy burden of friends' marriage struggles, challenges with kids, or unemployment, I find the need to chase a little bit of light. Jesus reminds us that as His followers we are to be the light of the world (Matthew 5:124). He says our good deeds done for His glory shine His light into the world. I've seen His light in a handwritten card from a friend that comes in the mail, in a text message on a hard day, and in the smile and wave of a stranger. Each act brings a bit of light to keep me going and reminds me that God sees me. I'm not alone.

In a dark world, just a tiny bit of light brings joy, just like each firefly caught in the palm of a niece's or nephew's hands. I'm determined, in this dark world, to bring a little bit of light wherever I go. Just as others have shone His light on my dark days, I desire to do the same for others. I may never know what the light does for someone, but

God does.

Amelia Rhodes



SOMETHING TO CROW ABOUT

When a mountain lion repeatedly targeted a collection of expensive birds, the breeder was desperate for a solution. Having lost some of his bet show chickens and carrier pigeons, he called a local trapper to relocate the predator. For bait, the breeder offered a young bantam rooster with a severely deformed foot. The trap was set with the little rooster huddled inside.

The next day, the trap contained both lion and chicken. Bent wires testified to a night of attempted escape. But neither was hurt. It seemed like a miracle to find the chicken alive. Taking pity, the trapper asked if he could take the rooster home to his daughter, Hannah to raise.

The trapper named the bantam Daniel (Danny) because he'd survived the lion's den. With his deformed foot, Danny marched about bravely like a small soldier with a very high kick. When the children weeded the garden, Danny would eat the bugs they unleashed. During lessons, he nestled in Hannah's lap and listened to her read. Before long, the family dog and the rooster also became best friends. They sunbathed together, both lying on their sides with legs outstretched, and they snuggled at night.

Danny didn't meet the standards of his breed. He was deemed useless, unworthy to live. But adopted into a loving family Danny thrived, just as we do when we embrace God's grace. We are fully adopted into the family and accepted as His children forever. A remarkable gift indeed. GOD GIVES US THREE POWERFUL WORDS: BE. NOT. AFRAID.

The disciples were dejected in the days after Jesus died. I can understand why. They had gone all in, banking on Him to be the Savior who would rescue them. But after beautiful miracles came a betrayal and a violent crucifixion. They were all out of hope. Sure, they knew He had said it was all part of the plan: He would be torn down and built up again three days later. But the gap between the grief and the miracle was long enough for them to lose sight of hope, and they rewrote the story in the dark. This happens to all of us at one time or another.

They were huddled in the second story of a house with doors locked when Jesus appeared. Wait, what? He understood their sadness and sense of loss, but He told them two powerful words: "fear not". Even after the lights had gone out. He told them not to be afraid.

Few times are as loaded with negative energy as the space between bad news and good. It doesn't matter what the doctor says after he's told you something's wrong; you just want hopeful test results. No kind words bring reassurance after you're let go at work unless it's someone else saying you've been hired. Even if you know there's light on the other side of the storm, it's scary to travel in the dark.

When the lights have gone out and you are having trouble finding your way, remember the end of the story has already been written. What difficulty are you facing? Be not afraid. Even if you don't feel the hope right now, it's waiting for you right up the road.

Bob Goff



"By changing your perspective, you will change the quality of your life's experience. Complaining guarantees a negative experience, while looking at the bright side guarantees a positive one. Which one shall it be? You hold the magic wand of Gratitude. Are you waving it?"

11:11 Progress Group



Cathy Elliot



Revelations for June from "Bly Mire" Mouse

To our dear church family:

Wow! You guys have not slowed down much during May, although we know that "quieter" times are coming this summer for you all here at church. We don't mind, at all, to see the busy-ness of your comings and goings. And, of course, we love cleaning your floors a bit by eating up the crumbs that you leave!

It's always nice for us mice to see and hear you practically every day with yoga, balance class, Bible study, card and game day, Messy Church, Chicken Barbecue (the smells and the crumbs are especially good on those days!), Primary election this month, choir and bells and play practices, your meetings, Wanda's presence each weekday, the constant coming in and going out of the parking lot door, and, of course, your Sunday morning wonderful worship and Sunday School times.

You know that cats are our nemesis, right? They usually do not like us mice much; in fact, they sometimes chase us for fun or other purposes, so we try to stay clear of them. But (and this is hard for us to admit) we sometimes can learn things from cats.

Do any of you have a cat for a pet? What do you like most about your cat? Is your cat playful? Loving? Cats can be interesting. They can be independent, playful, and lovable. They are excellent hunters (we have heard that from our mice friends!) and some people say that they are useful because they keep rats and us mice out of houses, barns, and warehouses (although we are thankful that there are no cats around here to keep us from our home here in your beautiful church building).

Cats have strong, muscular bodies and a keen sense of hearing. They can see well at night, and their whiskers help them move around in the dark without bumping into things. If you look at a cat's paw, you will see that they have claws that they can retract. When they are playful, they pull in their claws so they will not scratch their human friends.

And cats have a very distinct way of letting us know when they are happy and content. They will rub against a human leg or jump into a human lap and make a purring sound. If you pet your cat, it may purr loudly.

Although we have to admit that we mice don't always appreciate cats for who they are, enjoying a cat's purr can be a reminder to us that as children of God, we too can be happy and content (even us mice!). When we trust God, we receive the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives. That Spirit is one of love, hope, joy, and peace. By knowing that God loves us and that we have His love within us, we can continue to feel happiness and contentment, like a cat's purr. Trust in God allows us to have peace of mind, no matter what the circumstances.

When a cat is pleased, it lets others know by making a purring sound. Similarly, when we feel joy and peace, we let others know by our cheerfulness, smiles, and helpfulness.

This all is an example of what we have heard some of you read from Romans 15:13: May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

One more thing: Don't forget to honor and thank your mothers and fathers who love us and care for us in so many ways. This past month included Mother's Day, and Father's Day is in the coming month of June. Even our mice little ones find ways to thank us, their parents, and that is so neat!

We look forward to seeing you around (and gobbling up your crumbs) during the month of June! Love, Bly and Mire and our precious little ones (who are growing like weeds)

Much of the above came from: Edstrom, Lois, Contemporary Object Lessons for Children's Church, Baker Book House Company, 1985.



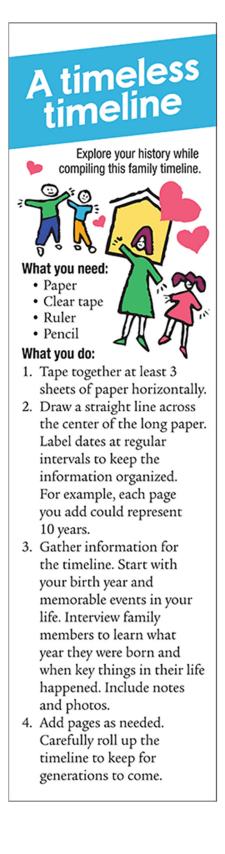
June Humor:

A guest preacher was called upon to substitute for the regular pastor who had failed to reach the church because he was delayed by spring flooding. The speaker began by explaining the meaning of a substitute. 'If you break a window'', he said, "and then place a cardboard there instead, that is a substitute."

After the sermon, a woman who had listened intently shook hands with him, and wishing to compliment him, said, "You were no substitute...you were a real pane!"

After hearing his Dad preach on "justification", "sanctification", and all the other "ations", a pastor's son was ready when his Sunday School teacher asked if anybody knew what "procrastination" meant. "I'm not sure what it means," he said, "But I know our church believes in it."

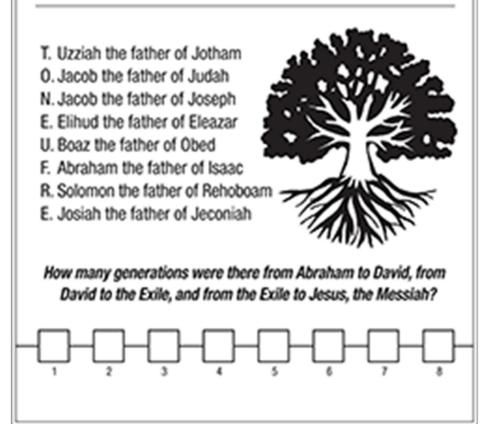
Both passages come from: Phillips, Bob, The World's Greatest Collection of Heavenly Humor, Harvest House Publishers, 1982.





Matthew records a timeline of Jesus' family dating back to Abraham. Do you know who is in Jesus' family tree?

Directions: Use Matthew 1:1-17 to order the genealogy. Then put the letters in order in the boxes to answer the question below.



VERNEE HOURTEEN