Bly Lines

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

September 2022

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From the

Pastor's Desk



I am so grateful to have met many of you on July 24th when I guest preached for you.

But oh my! I didn't expect that my interim ministry with you folks would start the way it has!

When the search committee called me to be your interim pastor, they graciously allowed me to start later than they had hoped because I had previously made guest preaching commitments and because my wife Becky and I had planned long-awaited and twice-postponed vacation weeks. We are grateful that St. John's Blymire's was so understanding of us taking this time and being able to travel.

Since mid-July, Becky and I have spent a week with some family in Myrtle Beach, a week with some family in Colorado and Montana, and 10 days on a Mediterranean cruise. Upon returning from the cruise, we obliged with the Pennsylvania Department of Health's recommendation to have COVID tests. Becky's was negative; mine was positive (urgh!). As of this writing, I'm quarantining for five days and taking the anti-viral prescribed medication Paxlovid.

As a result, I had to postpone my start date with you all. Because I was still in quarantine, I was not able to join you all for worship on August 21st. A huge thank you to Ginny and Rev. Curt Weber for ably and cheerfully filling in on such short notice! As of this writing, I hope to have my first "official" Sunday with you on August 28th (depending on a negative COVID test result). We are planning on having our summer Holy Communion on that date. If I still test positive after the initial five days and need to quarantine for another five days, my first Sunday with you will be September 4th.

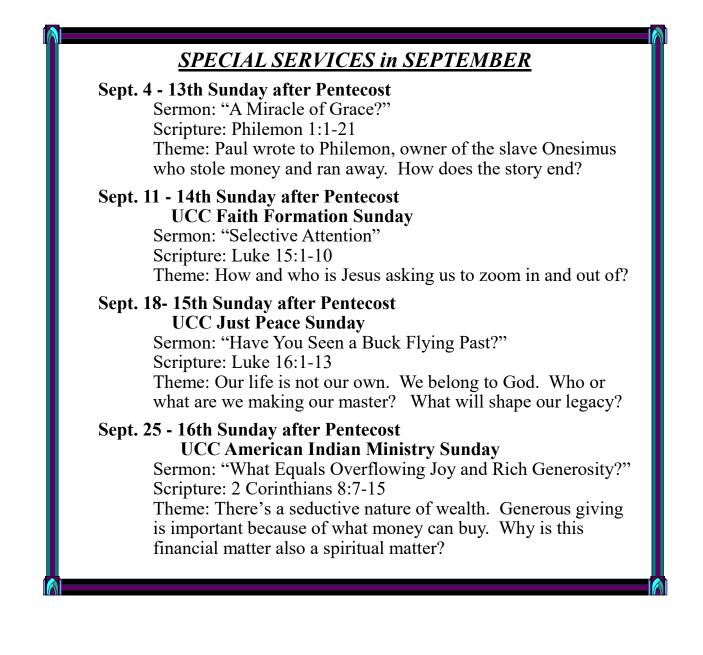
All of this has reminded me, in a humble way, that sometimes God's plans are not our plans! As Proverbs 3:15 states: "(God's wisdom) is more precious than jewels, and nothing you desire (or plan) can compare with (that wisdom)."

Yet I am really looking forward to starting my interim ministry with you all, to getting to meet each of you, to responding to pastoral needs, to supporting you in your continuing and ongoing ministries and outreaches, to continuing (even in a small way) the wonderful pastoral legacies of Rev. Lou Ann Jones and Rev. Curtis Weber, and to begin setting up groupings of 6 to 8 of you in homes or at the church where I will have a chance to listen to your joys, concerns, and hopes for St. John's Blymire's Church. I spelled out the overall goals and tasks of my interim pastorate with you in the "From the Pastor's Desk" column in the July/August newsletter issue. Let's begin our time together with Jesus' spirit of energy, thoughtfulness for each other, kindness toward all, and a humble yet bold discernment of God's ways and will for us as we answer in the next few months the important questions: 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?

By the way, if you have not been to the Mediterranean area and would like to see our vacation pictures and/or hear our descriptions of that area, please ask me. I'd be happy to share!

God's richest blessings on you all,

Pastor Rick Pulling



<u>SEPTEMBER</u> <u>BIRTHDAYS</u>



May God Bless You On Your Birthday!

- 1. Brent Barley Kimberly Dilling
- 2. Connie Hays
- 3. Susan Knaub
- Linda Eichelberger
- 4. Anjuli Shane
- 5. Debra Forbes
- 6. Beverly Troop
- 10. Eric John Orion Valentino-Charlton Timothy Luckenbaugh Jr.
- 12. Joyce Horning 14. Sally Bosley
- Braydon Picking
- 22. Meagan Bowen Bodie Barley

- 23. Tim Sleeth
- 24. Beth March
- 25. Andrew Mickey
- 26. Michele Leader
- 27. Shyanne Luckenbaugh
- 28. Joan Henry Linda King
- 30. Lou Ann Jones Aiden Bowen



FINANCIAL REPORT

Red Brick Chapel

Cemetery

Month-2022	Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Income	Expense
January	\$9,995.00	\$10,580.71	\$0.46	\$254.37	\$915.03	\$0.00
February	\$8,570.74	\$11,555.09	\$1,000.48	\$390.39	\$0.23	\$294.90
March	\$96,036.48	\$15,958.44	\$0.41	\$563.73	\$0.19	\$845.18
April	\$9,517.87	\$14,766.40	\$1,000.35	\$16,785.27	\$200.20	\$2,370.60
Мау	\$13,730.24	\$11,108.47	\$808.06	\$153.57	\$818.22	\$2,683.03
June	\$7,499.35	\$14,787.98	\$250.07	\$362.50	\$900.09	\$3,277.10
July	\$8,468.00	\$5,755.87	\$1000.07	\$132.08	\$7.20	\$2,188.88
August						
September						
October						
November						
December						
Total	\$153,817.68	\$84,512.96	44,059.90	\$18,641.91	\$2,841.16	\$11,659.69

Balance of Undesignated General Fund @ August 1, 2022

Balance of Red Brick Chapel Fund @ August 1, 2022 (Includes \$54,713.36 Endowment)

Undesignated General Fund

Balance of Cemetery Fund @ August 1, 2022 (Includes \$792,261.94 CD's, Trusts, UCC Foundation)

Financial Assistance Given through Hand of Hope Fund - 2022

	#		Total		Monthly		Available	
	Families		\$\$\$	Donations		Balance		
Beginning						\$	162.74	
January				\$	80.00	\$	242.74	
February	1	\$	25.00	\$	35.00	\$	252.74	
March	1	\$	25.00	\$	11.00	\$	238.74	
April				\$	59.00	\$	297.74	
Мау				\$	35.20	\$	332.94	
June	3	\$	75.00	\$	12.00	\$	269.94	
July		\$	200.00	\$	1045.03	\$	1114.97	
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
Total	5	\$	325.00	\$	1277.23			

\$22,062.79

\$58,312.90

\$801,320.81

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS and those in need of PRAYER

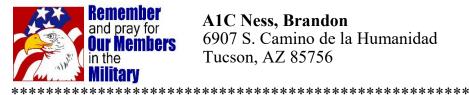
Peggy Luckenbaugh Room 704B **Colonial Manor Nursing Home** 970 Colonial Avenue York. PA 17403



Keeping in our prayers **Dolores Barley Jeanette Black Cindie McKinsey Ginny Weber 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

Would you like to meet Pastor Rick more personally in a small group session?

Pastor Rick is hosting informal get-togethers, of 6 to 8 people each, at the church during the months of September and October. During those times he will have a chance to get to know you, members and friends of St. John's Blymire's UCC better. He will also listen to your first memories of St. John's Blymire's UCC, why you started to come and continue to come to church here, what you see as the true character of the church, why you are proud of the church, what challenges you think the church currently has, what styles of lay and pastoral leadership have worked best for you in the past, and what questions/concerns/joys/hopes you have for our church as we move ahead.

Depending on the time of day that the group meets, there will be a light meal or refreshments served. Sign-up sheets will be on the table outside the sanctuary starting on September 4. Or you can call the church office and ask for a date and time slot from the following:

Thursday, September 15 - 11:00 AM with lunch Tuesday, September 20- 11:00 AM with lunch Sunday, October 2 - 11:00 AM with lunch Monday, October 3 - 2:00 PM with refreshments Friday, October 14 - 11:00 AM with lunch Thursday, October 27 - 7:00 PM with dessert

ELECTRONIC SIGN

Our church's electronic sign was hit by a vehicle on or about July 17th. The damage to the sign was totaled. The replacement cost, as quoted by the Continental Sign Company, is \$27,615. Our insurer approved total payment including the deductible.

The order with down payment was mailed to Continental on August 4. Delivery time for sign is running about 8-10 weeks.

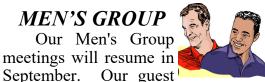
The investigation by York Area Regional Police Department has not been able to find the vehicle or person who hit our sign.



Our last concert of the summer will take place on Sunday, September 18, from 2:00-4:00 PM. It will feature Bluestone, a bluegrass group. The public is invited to join us in the pavilion behind our church. In case of inclement weather, the concert 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.



MEN'S GROUP Our Men's Group



September. Our guest for the first meeting will be Delta historian and slate splitter Don Robinson who will talk to us about the Welsh cottages restoration. The meeting will be on Tuesday, September 13, at 7:00 PM at the church.

The October 11th meeting will be held at the Jones residence and if weather permits, we will view astronomical objects through the Mt. Jones observatory. We will have a covered dish supper at 6:00 PM. The host will prepare the burgers and hot dogs, rolls and fixings. Bring your favorite dish to share with others. Plates, cups and utensils will be supplied.



Our next chicken BBQ will be held on Saturday, September 10, from 1:00 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 at 244-0655. We sold out early nearly every month so far, so to be guaranteed a dinner, it is best to pre-order.

We are also planning to set up a bake sale table and would welcome donations of homemade cookies, 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.



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.

If you have any questions, please call Janie Montgomery at (717) 891-3607 or Diana Myers at (717) 855-4752.

ONCE UPON AN APRON

The FUN Team is sponsoring a ladies luncheon and program called "Once Upon an Apron." The event will



be held from 11:30 AM-3:30 PM on Saturday, September 24. The cost is \$10.00 per person, which includes lunch, gift bags, a fashion show, photo booth and much more. There is a sign up sheet in the Gathering Room or you may call the church office. Deadline to register is Sunday, September 11. Feel free to invite a friend and bring your favorite apron. Any questions, see Marti Leader or Diana Myers.



You are invited to join us for Oktoberfest on Saturday, October 1, from 6:00-8:00 PM here at the church. Listen to German music provided by the Dockenspielers while you eat German food-Brats. Hot Potato Salad, Sauerkraut, German Desserts, Soft Pretzels, Root Beer, Coffee, Tea.

Many people from this area have German roots, but even if you don't, become a German for the night. The cost is \$10 per person.

PASTOR LOU ANN'S RETIREMENT SERVICE

For those having the Internet and wishing to view or share the retirement service for Pastor Lou Ann, the video is now on YouTube at https://youtu.be/u3BnlfdGrDk.

EXERCISE CLASSES

In addition to your spiritual health, this fall our church will be offering you two opportunities to improve your physical health as well.

The first is Chair Yoga/Gentle Yoga presented by Tracey Smith. These classes will be held at 10:00 AM on Monday and Wednesday mornings, beginning September 19.

The second is Healthy Steps in Motion sponsored by the York County Area Agency on Aging. These classes will be held at 1:00 PM on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, beginning October 4.

For more information and how to register, check out the flyers on the next two pages of this newsletter.



CHAIR YOGA/GENTLE YOGA CLASSES

St. John Blymire's United Church of Christ 1009 Blymire Road Dallastown, PA

> Presented by: Tracey Smith

Mondays and Wednesdays at 10 am Beginning September 19, 2022

\$10 per class

You may choose to be seated in a chair or use a mat on the floor.

Classes will be on a drop-in basis, but please call the church to register. 717-244-0655

These classes are ideal for anyone wishing to maintain or restore balance, flexibility and overall wellness.

Come join us for some fun and fitness!



Healthy Steps in Motion A Fall Reduction Program

Learn about...

- Exercise Basics
- Exercise Safety
- Setting Goals
- Strength Training Tips
- And MORE!

Participants will...

- Be assessed for fall risk
- Complete exercises to build strength, stability & balance
- Go away with a free textbook & resources
- And MORE!

Sign up today!

St. John's Blymire's UCC Church 1009 Blymire Road Dallastown, PA 17313

> 8 Classes—1 hour each 1pm—2pm Tuesdays & Thursdays

October 4-27, 2022

Call Faye by 9/27 to register: 717-852-4902 X-1044

There is <u>no fee</u> for this program. 60+ years of age



MIRACLES: You do not have to look for them. They are there, 24-7, beaming like radio waves all around you. Put up the antenna, turn up the volume - snap... crackle... Hugh Elliott



"I think joy and sweetness and affection are a spiritual path. We're here to know God, to love and serve God, and to be blown away by the beauty and miracle of nature. You just have to get rid of so much baggage to be light enough to dance, to sing, to play. You don't have time to carry grudges; you don't have time to cling to the need to be right."

Anne LaMott

SNACK EMERGENCY- After moving to the country, my 3-year-old daughter and I were often alone in the house. Because we lived in a rural area with no close neighbors, I wanted to make sure she would be able to call 911 in the event something happened to me. After instructing her, I decided to test her. "OK, what would you do if you found me on the floor and you couldn't wake me up?" I could see her little brain working. To my surprise, she said, "I would go into the kitchen and eat anything I want."

Laura Albrecht

And if Jesus were on earth today, living his life in the flesh, he would be a great disappointment to the majority of good men and women for the simple reason that he would not take sides in present day political, social, or economic disputes. He would remain grandly aloof while teaching you how to perfect your inner spiritual life so as to render you much more willing and able to be of service to your fellow man." U.B.



There is a way the world should be run. And when others behave in ways we don't like, we call that a pet peeve. Not a colossal divide or a legal violation, just a pet peeve.

You know, joy is such a precious commodity. Why squander it on a quibble? The phrases we use regarding our pet peeves reveal the person who actually suffers. He "gets under my skin" or "gets on my nerves" or she is such a "pain in my neck." Whose skin, nerves, and neck? Ours! Who suffers? We do! Every pet peeve writes a check on our joy account.

For this reason the apostle Paul said, "Be patient, bearing with one another in love" (Ephesians 4:2). The patient person sees all the peculiarities of the world. But rather than react, he bears with them. And this is how happiness happens.

Max Lucado



CLOSE THE WINDOWS! It was an inaudible voice, one I could hear ringing in my head. I was in the

car with my 2-year-old daughter, Hannah. We were on our way to the grocery store. It was a beautiful Saturday morning, warm but not yet hot enough for the air conditioning. I had simply rolled the windows down. The breeze was cool and refreshing. Hannah and I were both enjoying it... until I heard that voice.

Close the windows! It made no sense. The wind wasn't bothering us. There wasn't a cloud in the sky. But I couldn't shake the feeling. Before I realized what I was doing, my hand drifted to the buttons that controlled the car's windows. As soon as they were up, our van crested a hill— right into a swarm of bees!

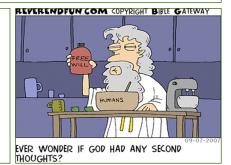
I'd never seen anything like it. A nearby hive must have just been disturbed. The bees angrily attacked the car, bouncing off the closed windows. A few got caught in my windshield wipers. I could hear the buzzing through the glass.

All I could do was keep driving. Within a few miles, the bees were gone. And we were safe, thanks, to that timely warning.

Marcy Warkaske

Christianity should sound like, "my beliefs continue to deepen my love for others" not "the depth of my love for others is contingent on how deeply they conform to my beliefs."

Reverend Benjamin Cremer



Please teach me, Lord... I want to know Exactly how to pray. I need some words Which ones are right? Please tell me what to say.

I've bowed my head I have knelt down, But... should I be upright? I've closed my eyes, I've raised my hands, Or... should I fold them tight?

Do I stand up? Should I sit down? Dear Lord... what do you like? Are lights turned on Or are they off? Maybe... candle light?

What do you think About the time? Do You prefer the dawn? Should I pray fast, Or keep it slow? Better short... or long?

And while I sat there quietly, Waiting for some sign, I heard a gentle voice say, "Oh, dearest child of mine... Do you think I really care About the time of day, Or whether you are standing up, Or kneeling when you pray?"

"I don't care about your posture, Or about the place you choose; Just open up your soul to me, I have no other rules. Tell me what is in your heart, And tell me what you seek; Tell me of your sorrows, And of those things that made you weak."

"Speak to me in private About what concerns you most; I know about your good deeds... You have no need to boast. My child, you don't need lessons, Just talk to me each day; Tell me anything you want, dear child, Anyone can pray."

Virginia Ellis



"What's wrong, Bubba?" asked the pastor. "I need you to pray for my hearing," said Bubba. The pastor put his hands on Bubba's ears and prayed. When he was done, he asked, "So how's your hearing?" "I don't know," said Bubba. "It isn't until next Tuesday."

Prayer is a mystery to me. I have friends who seem to have dramatic answers to their prayers all the time, but seldom do I see an obvious answer to my prayers.

So why do I pray? I pray because "I can't not pray." I pray for the same reason I breathe, sigh, groan, walk, talk, sing, laugh. Without the release that prayer gives me, my anxieties and frustrations would soon reach dangerous levels.

If I had to make an appointment with a doctor every time I was troubled, I would have long ago bankrupted the entire health-care system, singlehandedly.

But prayer? No appointment necessary. No paperwork, and no copay. I just open my heart to the Great Physician, wherever I am: on the riding mower, working under a car, or speeding down the freeway.

I know, prayer is no substitute for professional counseling, but the act of praying is healing to me. I can "divulge" things to God and know that He will keep my confidences. I can "wrestle" with God before I yield to His will. I can "brag" to Him about my achievements without being accused of pride.

I'm okay with the mystery of prayer. I don't have to witness answers to my prayers to know that they have been processed. I trust God to do what is best, on His timetable.

To me prayer is less like putting coins in a vending machine, and more like a very powerful cell phone, built into my head, that can reach heaven on a moment's notice, without dialing, and with unlimited minutes. I don't know where I would be without this heavenly phone.

Daniel Schantz



Dear Lord: Help me to be quick to listen and slow to speak. May I be a sounding board, as much as an advisor to those I love. When the offering of advice seems appropriate, let the words of my mouth speak your truth with wisdom and simplicity. When I am offered advice, solicited or not, let me receive the words graciously and weigh them against the truth that already resides in my heart. Most of all, may my interactions with those around me always reflect your love! Amen!

Unattributed

EMMANUEL'S CLOSET September 2022

Clothing and Household Room

Many of our clients have been asking for clothing and household goods, so we have decided to open up that room again beginning in January 2023.

While we were closed, we thoroughly cleaned that section and gave the items that we had in stock to other charitable organizations. Thus, we will be starting from scratch. We are now accepting the following items for our Clothing and Household room:

> Stain free clothing (any size) Toys Books (kids, teens, adult) Small household goods

We are also still accepting donations of food, cleaning products and toiletries. Items may be dropped off at Blymire's church on Sunday mornings or weekdays during office hours. They may also be taken directly to Emmanuel's Closet at St. Paul's UCC, Dallastown on Saturday mornings between 9:00AM-Noon. If you have a large quantity of donations, this would be the best option. Please DO NOT leave anything outside the doors at St. Paul's when no one is there. Thank you for helping your neighbors in this time of need. **E.C. Continuing Needs**

Juice Cereal/Oatmeal Peanut Butter/Jelly Pancake Mix Spaghetti Sauce Boxed Dry Pastas Helper Meals **Dessert** Items **Condiment** Items Canned Tuna/Meats Canned Fruit/Vegetables Soap Shampoo **Toilet Paper** Paper Towels **Dish Washing Liquid** Laundry Detergent **All-Purpose Cleaners**

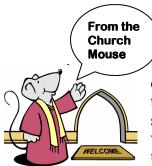
Please, NO Expired Food Items



THANKS FOR CARING!

Below is a list of items that we are especially in need of right now:

> Peanut Butter/Jelly Chili w/meat Dinner kits (tacos, pizza, etc) Hot cocoa mix Beef Stew Cookie Mix



Revelations for SEPTEMBER from "Bly Mire" Mouse

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, Mire and I, after having to stay at home for most of the last two years because of COVID, decided to take an extended road trip with our little ones this summer. As we also mentioned in the last newsletter, even though we knew we were going to miss the worship services and activities around Blymire's Church this summer, we made sure that we gave our July tithes before we left and are now giving our August tithes upon our return. We want you to know that we take to heart the notion "Don't take a vacation from giving" because the expenses of the church continue even

when we are not here.

We knew that July and August were going to be transition months between Pastor Lou Ann's settled pastorate and Pastor Rick's interim pastorate, so we thought it might not be a bad time to take our extended vacation. But we hear that we missed quite a bit here at church this summer – two successful chicken barbeques, a great outdoor concert, two card and game clubs, and the Sammy Sandwich Fundraiser. We also missed some great worship services with Pastor Curt, Ginny Weber, Nelson Leader, Rev. Tom Caruso, Cindy Innerst Axe, Pastor Patti Bream, New Life for Girls, and Jeri Jones.

Yet we had a great time that we wouldn't have missed for anything. We managed to travel around a lot of our country – from the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Museum in Cleveland, to the Wisconsin Dells, to Mt. Rushmore, to the Rockies down to the Grand Canyon, to the Alamo, up the Mississippi River to the St. Louis Arch, and then across several Midwestern states and back to Pennsylvania. Whew! We covered quite a bit of ground! Maybe not quite as much as Pastor Rick and Becky with their trip to the Mediterranean. But we hit a lot of spots! And we found churches that we visited in almost every spot we were in – ranging from huge megachurches with large screens and praise bands, big Gothic buildings with a lot of icons and paintings and candles and stained glass, country churches with out-of-tune pianos and no air-conditioning but people singing gospel songs with gusto, to store-front churches that are small but big-hearted in their outreach and mission. All of these visits made us really appreciate St. John's Blymire's Church even more than we did before!

Now that we have satisfied our "travel bug", we are really looking forward to seeing activities ramp up for the fall here at Blymire's!

Happy fall!

Love, Bly and Mire and the excited little ones



September humor about the biblical character Jonah:

Question: How did the fish that swallowed Jonah obey the divine law?

Answer: Jonah was a stranger, and the fish took him in.

Question: Who was Jonah's tutor?

Answer: The fish that brought him up.

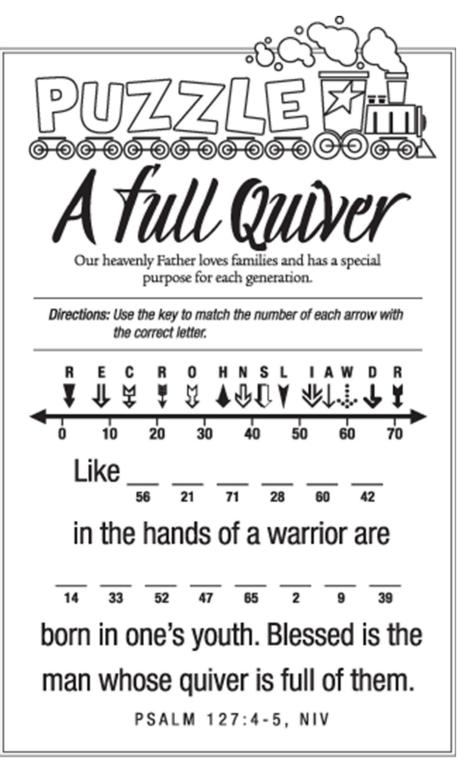
Question: How did Jonah feel when the great fish swallowed him?

Answer: Down in the mouth.

A woman turned to her young son and asked: "Did you enjoy Rev. Wood's sermon about Jonah and the whale?"

"I guess so," the boy said. "But I feel just like that whale. All that preaching's given me a bellyache."





Answer: arrows, children