



# The JPC Monthly

## May 2024

### THOUGHTS FROM PASTOR JAY

#### The Best Laid Plans



In November of 1785 Robert Burns was plowing his field. As he did, he accidentally plowed over the nest of a field mouse. He was upset by this because it was nearing winter and it seemed unlikely that the poor mouse would be able to get ready for the winter having lost everything. He was so moved by this he wrote the poem *To A Mouse* in which he expresses his remorse to the now homeless mouse. In the poem he wrote the line, "The best laid schemes o' Mice an' Men, Gang aft agley," and the world would never be the same. On a side note, I Googled the phrase "Gang aft agley," and it appears that this means "Often go awry," in ancient Scottish.

From this poem we have adopted the proverb that is used to suggest that even the most careful planning doesn't necessarily ensure success. An example of this is "today I had planned to do lots, but as they say the best laid plans of mice and men!" I have heard this over the years. I think my grandmother or maybe even my great grandmother even said it from time to time. It was not until last week that it really hit home. Later in this edition of the JPC Monthly you will see some photos of the work we are doing at Sunrise Gap. You will probably also see a thank you note written by the homeowner. It has been a blessing to work out there. Her family has been actively working with us. I am excited to get back out on that roof. BUT...

There is a but! This Saturday (May 4<sup>th</sup>) is the last day we planned. Now you must realize that I am writing this article before the second workday BUT unless Jesus and his angels descended from heaven while I was gone this weekend there is no way we will get done on May 4<sup>th</sup>. We had originally planned to do half of the roof one day and the other half the next. This was not possible because the roof was worse than we could have ever imagined. In some sections there is almost nowhere to safely step. This means less workers on the roof. This means removing and replacing more wood. This means slower progress. Now don't get me wrong. I am not complaining. I am thankful that I get to use my own shower and sleep in my own bed after each day of work. I also think this is possibly the greatest NEED we have seen in all the home repair trips I have personally made with the church. I understand in the early days of Sunset Gap there was real need, but I find myself wondering on some of the jobs. This is not the case here!

Now what? Our plans are in ruins like the nest of the poor fieldmouse. We have a choice. We can complain and be upset. We can make excuses about being too busy. Or we can find some volunteers and finish the work. Of course, you know we will get it done. I hope that when you read the thank you note she sent after the first day you will see how thankful this family is. I invite you to consider being a part of the effort. You can pray, intentionally, each Saturday morning we are out there. This roof is dangerous. We can certainly use your prayers. Perhaps you can be a part of the team that makes our lunch and delivers it? This is a hungry crew and we are so thankful for our support team. As we near the end of the project there will probably be some paint work and some beautification elements to what we are doing. Maybe that is your specialty?

(con't.)

It is easy to get frustrated. But I know that God has a plan for this family and I can clearly see the benefit and blessing each JPCer experiences by working on this project too. So remember in your life, when things don't go as planned, that maybe they are going exactly as planned in God's perfect plan. See you in church or on the Sunrise Gap worksite! Happy Mother's Day to all the moms too!

## SUNRISE GAP

-PICS-



-THANK YOU-

Good Morning Charlie,

I hope all is well with You and Your Family and All who came and helped Yesterday! I just wanted to Thank You and Carlos again for all Your hard work and dedication for making this possible to get me a new roof and I want You also to make sure each and everyone involved in helping and working and making this happen knows how very Thankful I am to them!

I've been praying for this and God heard my prayers and has been so good to me he brought me all of Y'all his Faithful and Wonderful Servants I can't Thank You All enough but God knows my heart and knows how Greatful I am for each and everyone of You for this Blessing!

We moved all the left over materials to the side of the house so it is all safe and secure untill Y'all come again! I know my health isn't good right now I felt bad I couldn't help alot but I'm praying and working on that but my grandson and I both want to let Y'all know if there is anything we can ever do to help Y'all in anyway please let me know he really enjoyed helping!

God Bless You All have a very Blessed Day

(Message to Charlie Graham from the homeowner)

## Did You Know?

Celebrate! Is coming to JPC's Campus this Fall! It involves our entire church and features rides, food, music, animals, and more! And over a thousand people will be invited to attend free of charge! But do you know why we offer this?

Years ago, several JPC members gathered and worked together to bring a free event to our local community called Celebration. It was a huge Outreach undertaking meant to provide fun, food and entertainment at no charge to the public, and it was an incredible success. Hundreds of families came to our church and enjoyed games and rides and more, while the entire church came together and volunteered to help. Sadly, Covid arrived, and the event was cancelled.

Until a year ago, when it was proposed that the event be brought back. Session approved it, and several brave leaders came forward to help get the event back up and running. The group wanted to emphasize the word "Celebrate!" so the name was changed, and suddenly we all noticed the word popping up during Worship sermons, in the music played and even during the Children's message! Countless hours were spent planning and preparing. Donations were gathered. T-shirts were printed. Invitations were sent. And on October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023, JPC hosted Celebrate! Hundreds of people once again flocked to our Campus including those from Family Services, Haynes-Inman, JPC Preschool, Millis Road Elementary, Pilot Elementary, Church World Service and others. We wanted to offer free activities, food, and fun for families who otherwise might not be able to enjoy these offerings. We chose a Scripture verse to guide us: Galatians 6:10 which reads, "Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who are of the household of faith."

Celebrate! Will be here this October on the 5<sup>th</sup> from 10am-2pm, and we are counting on our members here at JPC to help once again. We are planning to invite more schools this year including Florence Elementary, as well as partner with Sedgfield Presbyterian to include folks they assist. We will have a cook-out, bounce houses and huge interactive inflatables, Decided music, a DJ, Sunset Slush, cotton candy, a photo booth, face painting, and an amazing petting zoo returning with over 20 animals. There will be tons of opportunity to assist, and we will continue to update our congregation on our progress and needs. In the meantime, please be in prayer as the team prepares and plans. Thank you very much!

### DONATIONS

Donation to JPC Congregational Life Fund  
In memory of Frank Mills, Chris Mills' father, by  
Francis Snow



**ORANGE FEATHER  
COMMUNITY SCHOOL**

**DONATIONS YEAR TO DATE:**

**\$1,933.34**



## JPC KIDS AND YOUTH CORNER



### JPP PRESCHOOL NEWS!

The school year is quickly coming to a close! We will miss our little friends as they go off for summer break. We have been busy at JPP! We had our annual Spaghetti Dinner and Art Show which was a huge success! Thank you to our JPC family for coming out to support us. Our VIP class picnics are always fun and are finishing up this week. Promotion days are coming up soon! Like in summers past, we have various camps for the preschoolers which are always super popular. JPP wants to wish you all a safe and fun break!

### FROGS / POLYWOGS NEWS!

#### POLYWOGS

We had the most amazing time learning how to listen for God with our full body with Evy Hazenberg! What a wonderful perspective Miss Evy brought to us with yoga! Stay tuned in your email for our May meeting details!



#### FROGS

Thank you to our FROGS for assembling 30 bags for the homeless. They also enjoyed a rousing game of GaGa Ball! Our May FROGS outing will be a Rockers baseball game! Details in an email very soon!

## YOUTH GROUP

### YOUTH NEWS!

Mrs Pumpkins was a huge success! Thank you all so much for supporting our youth! The school year is almost over and with that means our Sunday nights will be paused until September! But don't worry! We have plenty of fun things to do this summer!! Look out for an email soon!

## SUMMER SCHEDULE CHANGES!



10:00 am combined summer worship services begin on Sunday, May 26th in the Sanctuary. Service location generally alternates each week between the CLC and the Sanctuary. Please check the church calendar or the weekly eblasts for the location of the week's upcoming service. Sunday School does not meet during summer.



## LEISURE FELLOWSHIP

Leisure Fellowship will be having a covered dish lunch in the Fellowship Hall at 12:00 Thursday, May 16.

After a delicious lunch, we will enjoy an informative program on the wonderful things that are happening with the Outreach Program at JPC. Flavia Kingalu, a recent new member of our church, along with Kim Schoepske, will be speaking about Church World Service (CWS).

You will enjoy this and leave proud of what our church does to help this organization. Please bring a dish to share and enjoy the fun, fellowship and interesting information Flavia and Kim will provide us.



## VBS 2024 AT JPC!

### Child Registration

Parents, if you are one of the first 40 to sign your children up before May 31st, you'll get a FREE BACKPACK to bring excitement to your child's start to the new school year!

### Details

Dates: July 15 - 18

Time: 9 - 11:30

Age Range 5 - 11

[2024 JPC VBS Registration - Hometown Nazareth Where Jesus was a KID! \(google.com\)](#)

### Volunteer Registration

We'd love to get 40 volunteers to get this show in full swing! Invite a friend and explore JPC's Nazareth together!

### Details

Volunteer Age: 14+

Time commitment: 8:30 - 12

[2024 JPC VBS VOLUNTEER SIGNUP Hometown Nazareth - Where Jesus was a KID! \(google.com\)](#)

## COMMUNITY GARDEN



May is here! This month means a lot to the gardeners. We will be doing our summer planting. This involves weeding and mulching with grass clippings from generous neighbors.

Tomato plants are in the ground. We are harvesting spinach, red mustard, kale and collards. We are already donating to Family Services our greens. If you want any produce for families come to the garden on Wednesday 9am or let Nancy Seay know. Soon we will have blueberries and celery!

Gardeners can just show up on Wednesday 9 am or email Nancy Seay at [seaywhat7@aol.com](mailto:seaywhat7@aol.com) with any questions. You are needed and valued on our team!

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### **CHURCH STAFF**

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### **JPC SESSION**

#### **Class of 2024**

Vivien Carson  
Carlos Frontera  
John Martin  
Clayton Robinson  
Brian Stroud  
Joanne Vitelli

#### **Class of 2025**

Mike Bryant  
Bill Carter  
Charles Graham  
Angelin Ham  
Linda Honeycutt  
Becky Robinson

#### **Class of 2026**

David Bean  
Becky Brown  
Nancy Seay  
George Wissmiller  
Anne Wright