



PROVIDENCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BUSTLETON



Providence Presbyterian Bustling's

Sunday, March 28, 2021 *Issue No. 52*

Greetings! Today is Sunday, April 18, 2028, The Third Sunday of Easter.

This day is also nicknamed Misericordia Sunday and Good Shepherd Sunday. "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." - John 10:11. We are all thankful for Christ laying down his life for our sins, and we should also be grateful for the shepherds who guide us in the footsteps of Christ.



Grace Is A Gift

Laura Durham - Salt Lake City, UT - December 24, 2010



It doesn't always make sense to me, but when ambiguities such as grace and love manifest themselves, I'm moved by the clarity they bring.

The spring I was in the third grade, my teacher planned activities to celebrate the season. For weeks I looked forward to making

treats and dying eggs. I remember telling my mom how much fun it was going to be, and I imagined what colors and designs I would choose. Before the big day, my teacher told us to come to class on Friday with a hollowed-out egg. We were also told to bring our spelling test signed by a parent, and if we didn't, the teacher warned, we would sit out from the activities.

At nine years old, I was the perfect student. I was studious, I was obedient, and I was responsible. So when I forgot to bring my spelling test that Friday, I was devastated. I knew what the consequence would be. When my class jumped from their chairs to collect art supplies, I sat still at my desk examining my perfect, hollowed-out egg, fighting the inevitable tears.

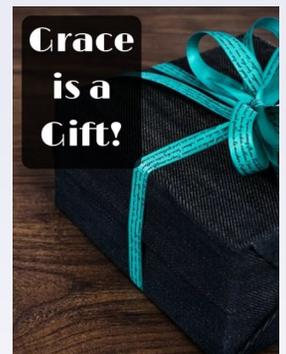
It wasn't long before my teacher pulled me aside. She knelt down and told me I should join the rest of the class. With tears in her eyes, she told me I could bring my spelling test on Monday. And then she gave me a hug.

I couldn't believe it. My disappointment disappeared with this unexpected gift.

Twenty years later, I still remember that moment. Even though I fell short of what was required of me, my teacher graced me with love and understanding. She could have stood her ground and let me sit out as an example to the other students, but she knew punishing me for this small mistake wouldn't teach me a new lesson. The lesson I learned that day was how much grace can lift someone's spirit.

Yet, I seem to have a hard time grasping grace in my life. I sometimes subscribe to the idea of karma: what goes around comes around. But then I remember that balancing a behavioral checkbook is detrimental to my happiness. If I'm constantly keeping count of what I feel I'm entitled to, I may never be satisfied. If I'm blessed beyond what I deserve, I might never feel worthy. I must remind myself that I know better. Not everyone is punished for breaking the rules, just as not everyone is rewarded for their efforts. Life may not be fair, but when I think about it, more often than not I'm on the fortunate side of the imbalance. And this moves me to offer the same grace to others.

I believe in being gracious to others, and I believe in accepting others' graciousness whether I've earned it or not. Sometimes you are blessed simply because someone loves you. And that is why grace is a gift — not a reward.





Providence Presbyterian Church

I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord



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Prayer Requests

Prayer Requests will be added each week by your requests, and will run for two weeks unless a request to continue is received.

God's healing presence:

For **Jennifer Cox**, dealing with serious health issues
For **Michelle Cox**, for strength, healing and guidance
For **Wendy Kasper** recuperating from surgery
For **George Eaton** battling kidney failure
For **Jean Miller** recuperating at home after a brief hospital stay

God's comfort:

For those dealing with dementia and Alzheimer's issues
For those who serve as caregivers
For those in need of God's guiding presence

In thanks and praise to God:

"Give thanks to the Lord for he is good. His love endures forever."

From Becky Jensen – For continued prayers for the PNC as they carry on their mission.

God's blessing to all who sacrifice their time and talent to keep our church active in the community and open for worship.

That our journey with God will not just be a Sunday meeting, but an daily walk and conversation, as we encounter Him in everyone and everything we see.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Julie Olsen - April 11

Roland Newell - April 11

Jim Chambers - April 13

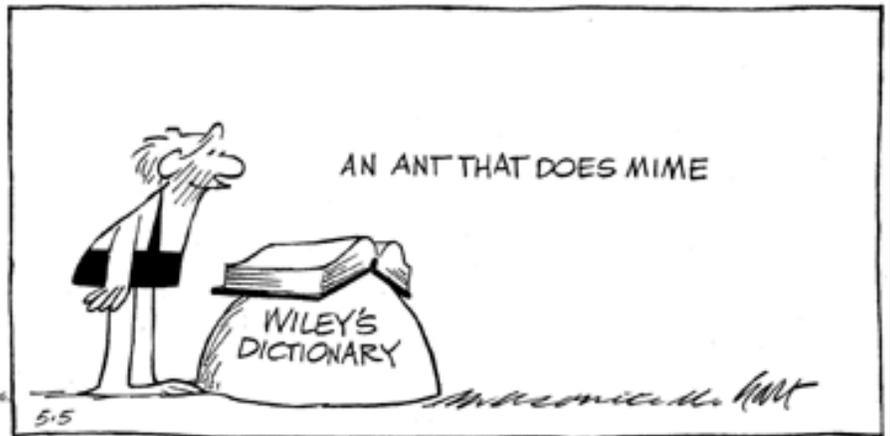
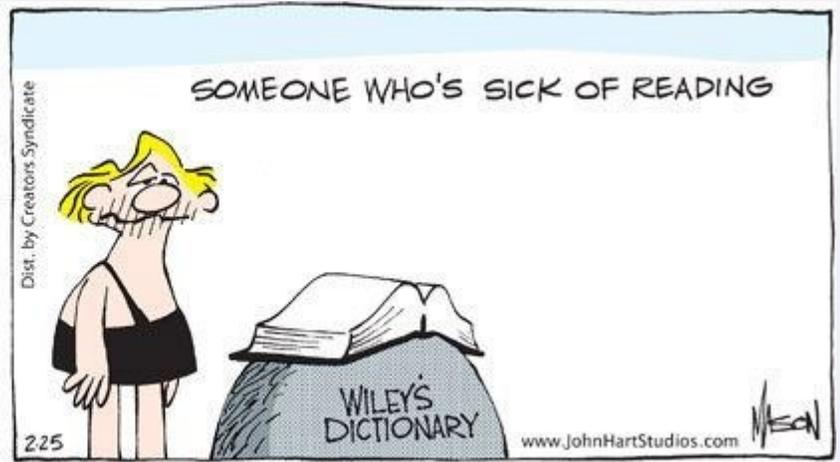
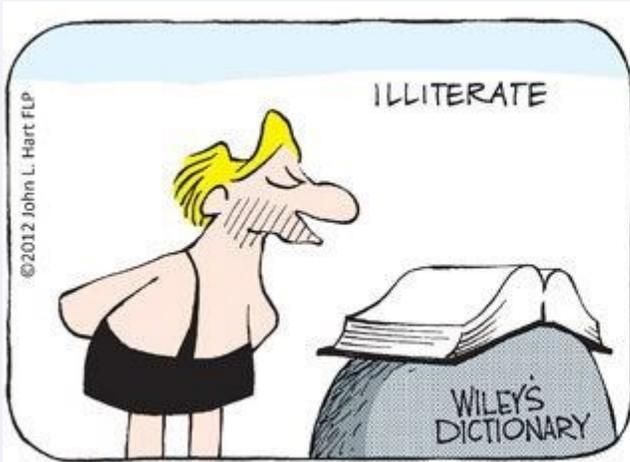
Ginny Heal - April 14

Joseph Celkupa - April 19

Jane Cheslo - April 19



Wiley's Dictionary



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