

The Shepherd's Voice May 2024

439 E. Norvell Bryant Hwy, Hernando, FL 34442

PASTOR'S PAGE

We are still celebrating Easter and hearing the various stories of those who encountered the risen Jesus. In the month of May, we make a transition. The day of Pentecost is approaching. Pentecost will be celebrated on May 19th. In Acts 2, we are told about a cacophony of languages heard, but, "all were filled with the Holy Spirit." Then came the question, "What does this mean?" There is a good question, what does this mean to us? Does everyone have to be like us? Is there room for differences? Who decides who is "in" and who is "out"? The answers you would get to those questions in our time depend on who is being asked.

Maybe the "truth" is all are welcome! If you notice in the Pentecost story, many languages are used, but the message of God's mercy and grace is understood by all. God is making a place for all.

Now, there is an interesting word that is used in scripture - truth. Talking about the coming "Pentecost" John's Gospel records the conversation Jesus had with his disciples shortly before his arrest. One part of the discussion Jesus tells them, "When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide into all truth." Jesus promises them that the Advocate will follow him. This Spirit of Truth will center the community of the faithful in the truth of God revealed in Jesus. A couple of chapters later in John's Gospel when Jesus is on trial before Pontius Pilate, Pilate asks Jesus, "What is truth?" Clearly, Jesus and Pilate understand that word very differently. The same is true of our time. It can be hard to answer that question (What is truth?) in an era of "fake news" and "conspiracy theories" and listening to news reports in which the reporter/news agency is putting their "spin" on things. Did you know that in 2019, there was a TED talk that was given by a professor in which he warns the listeners of the persuasive power of fake news which is rooted in fear?

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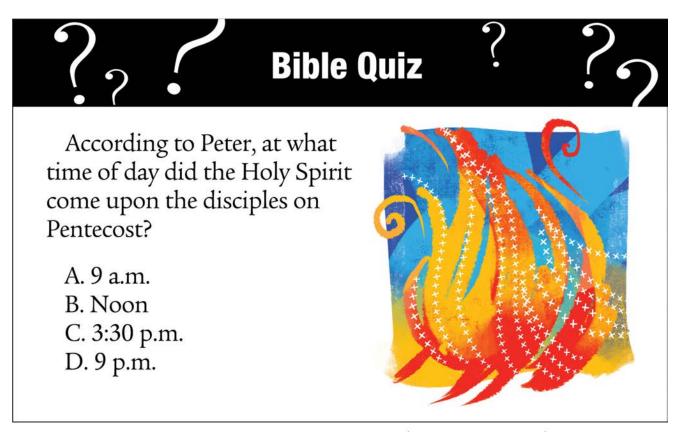
Pentecost comes with a fiery whirlwind and promises that the birth of the Church is good news not only for humanity but for all creation. The "truth" is Jesus. He overcomes the fear and leads us to life. We are the ones who are called, baptized and sent to work toward God's mercy and grace in the world. We can point to mercy and grace beyond the fear. The Pentecost gift of the Spirit binds us together in the truth of God's love.

The next question, is are you ready for the fire?

Pastor Dennis



JOHN 14:6



Answer: A (See Acts 2:15.)

Intern's Corner

Every week we pray for good stewardship of the earth.

On April 4th, we had a small gathering of interested people, learning about the impact of plastic pollution on the earth, the oceans, and the atmosphere.

Only nine to fourteen percent of recyclable plastic is recycled. The rest goes into landfills or the ocean. That is a real problem that we all can help doing something about.

Plastic pollution is even worse with regard to single use plastics. Consider a grocery store. The meat department packages the cut meat in plastic and or Styrofoam containers. Many items on the shelves are packaged in plastic. At checkout, plastic bags are usually provided to take the groceries home. The plastic used for our grocery store items is thrown into the garbage and then the landfill.

This might seem knit-picky, but plastic does breakdown and it finds it's way into our water supply. Currently, studies have found micro and nano plastics in baby's blood and mother's milk. In some cases, plastic has been identified as a contributing factor in premature deliveries.

Our church is already taking steps to minimize our single use plastic output. Thanks to Elaine Giamassi and the Fellowship Committee, we are washing the metal tableware instead of using plastic and throwing it away. Coffee stirrers are now wood or pasta. I'm sure other advancements are in the works. We are recycling the communion cups instead of throwing them in the trash.

Remaining un-recycled plastic is everywhere on earth. Some floating plastic is bigger than TWICE the size of Texas.

Please recycle and try to minimize the single use plastics.

Thank you



Click for more info



Special Message from Intern Bob

Dear Good Shepherd Family,
There are no words that can express the Love and
Kindness I not only feel now, but for all the years we
and now me have been members of Good Shepherd. I have always said
the God carried me after Maryann's passing and I faithfully believe that. It
was your support and prayers that kept me coming back. I now ask God to
carry all of you, during these difficult transitions and He will good people.
Focus on the Cross and focus on what we have, not on what we do not
have. There is nothing that can separate us from the Love of God and
there is nothing that can separate us as I journey to internship.

"Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in Him." (Psalm 34:8)

Thank you, May the Peace of the Risen Christ be with all of you,

Bob





Taste & see

THAT THE LORD IS

Church Council News

The Council met on April 11 and approved the following items:

- The use of Enduring Gifts funds to replace the hymnal ribbons.
- A Next Door business account. Stephanie Adams to administer the account.

In other news: Cara and Tom Stickler have agreed to assist Lynn Bechdolt by taking the pictures of our members for our new pictorial directory. Look for sign up sheets soon. Photos will be taken before or after worship service on May 19th. For those of you leaving for the summer, photos will be taken after service on April 28th and May 5th.

A big thank you to Cara and Tom for taking on this project and a special thank you to Lynn Bechdolt for her perseverance in getting this project started.



Serving Our Savior



Executive Council Meeting

May 2nd @ 9:30 AM

Council Meeting

May 9th @ 3:00 PM



SOS Food Pantry PO Box 640774 Beverly Hills, FL 34464 email sos4food@gmail.com SOS now has an updated Facebook page and will take credit card donations.

Click for donations:



Council President's Message

Shelly Fortin and I had the pleasure of attending the Pinelands
Conference on April 13th at Hope Lutheran in The Villages. The Gospel given by Pastor Mark was very inspirational. The Reflections portion led by Pastor Rani was equally uplifting and centered on Martin Luther.
Shelly and I had the pleasure of carpooling with Intern Bonomo. The next Pinelands Conference will be on September 28th and is being hosted by Joy Lutheran in Ocala. I encourage you to attend.

While I want to thank all of our volunteers who continually give of their time and talent, we do have a couple of urgent needs.

Our money counters are in short supply. There has been a very small, but dedicated group of folks who have been doing the counting since December without a break. They really want and deserve a break from the very important service they provide. It takes about an hour, sometimes less, to complete the counting. If interested, please contact Louise Osborn at (352) 746-2405.

Another area of need is the Saturday evening bread pickup. Currently, it is covered through May, but June, July, and August we have no volunteers. If we were able to get enough volunteers, then the duties could be split up on a weekly or twice a month basis so one person does not have to do it for an entire month. If interested, please contact Gerri Fallanca at (352) 637- 2663.

As you prayerfully consider volunteering for one of these needs, I am reminded that in order to do the work of the Church, the Church has to work.

Grace and Peace,

Joe





WELCA NEWS



As a community of women created in the image of God called to discipleship in Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society and the world.

The Pinelands Conference of WELCA will hold its spring gathering at St. Timothy's on Saturday, May 4, with registration beginning at 9:00 AM and worship concluding around 2:00 PM. An email went out about this, but if you missed it, or would like to attend, please let me know by **April 24th**. Cost is \$10.00 for lunch and there is a Love Offering going to Graceway Village in Ft. Pierce.

The WELCA Board will meet as usual on Tuesday, May 7th at 11AM. Our circle Bible study will be held on Tuesday, May 21st at 1:00 PM and Nancy Gomes will lead the discussion on session four (food) of Novak, Cindy. "Scripture and nature: Teachers of Faith". Gather, March/April 2024. All women are welcome. If you need a copy of the Bible study, let me know.

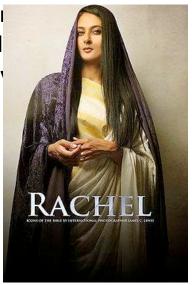
This year's observation of Rachel's Day will feature a presentation by Stephanie Bell, Executive Director of the Pregnancy & Family Life Center on Friday, May 24th at 1:00 PM. At are welcome at this event: men, women, members of Good Shepherd, and members of the community. We hope to have a good turnout to hear about the many services offered by this organization. There is a signup sheet in the narthex; please sign up if you plan to come so that we can be sure to have enough refreshments. On Sunday, May 26th, we will continue our observation of Rachel's Days with an litany during worship and a collection following worship which will go to the Pregnancy & Family Life Center.

Coming of Furch bendership to Know You" tea for all women of Cade Stably Henviews by taking etric tarry: And August of Treasurer: Aagot Green Projects: Cind We would Circle Co-Chairs: Maggine Breggers and Nancy

Sally Hennessey, Unit Leader

100 not take verenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: 'It is mine to arenge, I will repay,' says the Lord. - Romans 12:19

Click Rachel for more info



Adopt a Highway Program

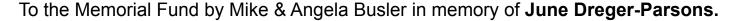


Our next Adopt-A-Highway Trash Pick-up will be Saturday, **June 1st.** We will meet at the church at 8 AM and expect the pick-up to take 1.5-2 hours. Come and experience the fellowship while we clean up a 2 mile portion of Norvell Bryant Highway. If you have any questions, email Linda Koch at LCK1164@gmail.com or text/call 386-589-4727.

HELP WANTED: Our group is in search of a <u>new coordinator</u>. If you are interested, Linda can fill you in on the responsibilities each quarter.

Memorials and Special Gifts

To the Choir Fund by Judy Gillette in memory of **Dell Peterson**.



To the Memorial Fund by Mike & Angela Busler in memory of Thelma Ewell.

To the Memorial Fund by Mike & Angela Busler in memory of **Dell Peterson**.

To the Memorial Fund by Mike & Angela Busler in memory of Ann Neville.

To the Memorial Fund by Diane Meltesen in memory of **June Dreger-Parsons**.

Social Ministry



Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms





Craft 'n Share



We will next meet WEDNESDAY, May 29th from 10 AM to 2 PM. Bring your lunch; beverages and dessert will be provided.

HELPERS ARE NEEDED!! PLEASE JOIN US ON MAY 29th, (Right now only two people are coming to Craft and Share) We will cut and sew grocery store shopping bags.

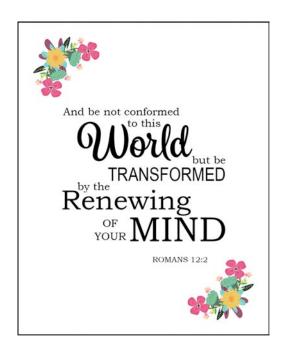
We were given beautiful floral drapery fabric that WE HOPE TO MAKE INTO GROCERY STORE BAGS to make available to the congregation. By using a cloth bag, we will save more plastic going into the landfill and ultimately into our water supply and the ocean!!

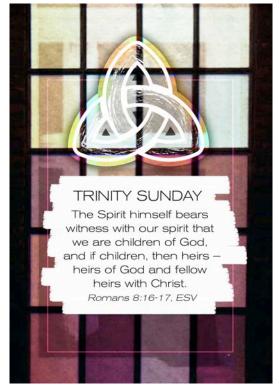
Thank-yous are in order this month for Jean who finished a granny square lap robe that Gerry Kauth had started before she took ill. Thanks also to Cathy Heaps for more baby blankets and baby hats. We also have to thank Sharon Tow for the 3 bins of fabric she donated which is being used by quilters and crafters.

See Maggie if you need 4-ply yarn. We have directions for other knitting or crocheting patterns for lap robes also. If you know someone who could use a shawl or lap robe, please call me.

I look forward to seeing you on the fourth WEDNESDAY April 24th. The FOURTH Wednesday is our regular day of the month to meet. Ouestions?

Call Maggie Bregger 352-860-2215





Worship and Music

May 7th @ 1:00 PM - Monthly Meeting

Tuesdays @ 6:30 PM - Bells

Wednesdays @ 6:30 PM - Choir



Health Ministry

Your Faith Community Nurse is Kathy Metz, she can be reached @ Health Ministry 352-746-1911 and the Health Team members are: Barb Lauer, Donna Pease, John Colson, and Leith Masters. We will provide blood pressure screenings after worship the 4th Sunday of the month. See you May 26th.

Thrivent Choice

The following Thrivent for Lutheran Members have directed their months Choice Dollars to be given to Good Shepherd.

Linda M Cashman Lois L Johnston Dennis Wayne Koch Linda C Koch Pamela J Moore

Fellowship



Our next month's Fellowship Committee meeting will be held on Monday, May 13th at 1:00 PM. Please note the **time** change for this month only! We are asking our committee members to attend if their schedule allows.

Last month's meeting included a discussion of the growing impact of plastic pollution in today's world and what we, as stewards of God's beautiful earth, can do to lessen our contribution. We decided to change a few things that we use for the Fellowship Hall. We will begin using wooden coffee stirrers and silverware instead of plastic stirrers, plastic forks, knives, and spoons when serving coffee and desserts after worship. Let us ALL do our part to recycle items whenever possible. Thank you.

We had between 22 and 35 people attend our 5 Lenten potluck suppers last month. The food was plentiful and delicious. You are not required to bring anything, but we are asking you to sign up on the clip board in the Narthex to let us know you are coming. We hope more of our congregation will attend next year.

We are still looking for volunteers to sign up to help with serving coffee after worship in the Fellowship Hall and clean up afterward. Some of our members are not available in the summer months to help and we are trying to schedule in advance. The signup sheets are near the coffee counter in the Fellowship Hall. If you would like to help, please contact me at 352-527-8706 or egiammasi@gmail.com. Thank you for considering.

Join us weekly in the Fellowship Hall for coffee and treats. We are always looking for new items to share, especially gluten and sugar free.

Elaine Giammasi, Co-Chair John Giammasi, Co-Chair Fellowship







Special Dates

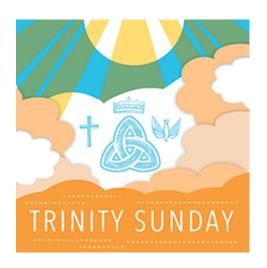
- 2 National Day of Prayer
- 9 Ascension Day
- 12 Mother's Day
- 19 Pentecost
- 26 Trinity Sunday
 - Rachel's Day
- 27 Memorial Day
- 29 Last Day of school













REMINDER:

When entering the Sanctuary, please remember many are preparing for worship by praying and reflection.



Every Tuesday @ 7:30 AM Breakfast at Mama's Kuntry Kafe First Thursday @ Noon Lunch @ Angelotti's



Wednesdays @ 9 AM A Time for Prayer

May 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 7:30A - SOS 10:00A- Quilters 11:00A - Bible Study 1:00P - Newcomer's Club 6:30P - Choir	7:30 A- SOS 9:30 A Executive Council	3 8:00A – Workday on Grounds	4 WELCA Pinelands Conference @ St Timothy
5 10 A Worship Sunday School	6 1:30P Social Ministry Meeting	7 11 A - WELCA Board Meeting 1P - Worship & Music Meeting 6:00P - Scouts 6:30P - Bells	8 7:30A-SOS 11:00A - Bible Study 6:30P - Choir	9 7:30 A - SOS 3:00 P Council Meeting	10 8:00A – Workday on Grounds	11
12 10 A Worship Sunday School	13 1:00P Fellowship Meeting	14 1:00 P - WELCA Circle Bible Study 6:30P - Bells	15 7:30A-SOS 10:00A- Quilters 11:00A - Bible Study 6:30P - Choir	16 7:30A - SOS 10A-11:30A Citrus Hills POA Meeting	17 8:00A – Workday on Grounds	DEADLINE: Newslotter Articles
19 10A Worship Sunday School	20	21 6:30P - Bells	22 7:30A-SOS 11:00A - Bible Study	23 7:30A - SOS	24 8:00A – Workday on Grounds	25
26 10 A Worship Sunday School	27 OFFICE CLOSED	28 6:00 P - Scouts 6:30P - Bells	29 7:30A-SOS 10:00A - Craft n Share 11:00A - Bible Study	30 7:30A - SOS	31 8:00A – Workday on Grounds	13

ANNIVERSARIES AND



Jeremy & Ester Page-Wood
John & Linda Lepore
Rick & Ann Serafin
Pat & Susie Bentley
David & Gail Sotrines

Otis & Sharon Maxwell

05/02/70 05/08/87 05/14/82 05/20/06 05/23/98

05/23



1 - Steve Schenk

5 - Bill Graham

8 - Catherine Richardson

9 - Ivalee Lawerence

11 - Nancy Gomes



14 - Renate Williams

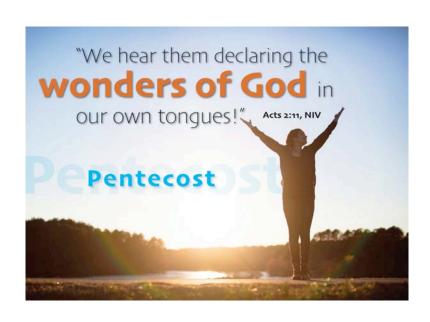
15 - Dawn Clark Rosie Davis

16 - Frank Bienwald Iris DeMaio 26 - Gerri Fallanca

28 - Mary Krol

30 - Karen Benefiel

31 - Todd Gaertner









Let us remember:

Bendtsen, Elin
Benefiel, Larry & Karen
Brit-Busler, Elizabeth
Cashman, Dan
Clark, Dawn
Costa, Denise
Drennen, Rose & Family

Fowler, Bob
Giamassi, Elaine
Goetter, Lisbeth
Hassinger, Doug & Donna
Jimenez, Jeanette
Johnson, Carol Lee
Koch, Dennis,Linda,& Michael

Kranauer, Linda Lauer, Barbara Lawrence, Ivalee Lepore, Linda Masters, Leith Meltesen Family Miles, Ilse

Mongardi, Eloise Page-Wood, Jeremy Pawelko, Diane Peterson, Gloria Wagner, Carole Wildman, Joe

Those who are shut in or residing in assisted living homes:

Charon, Carol Frost, Joann Hartsfield, Sylvia Lowe, Faye Moll, Bob

Philipp, Dick Whitcomb, Ray

All who serve our country in the military:

Burba, Jake Jackson, Brad Ceballos, Jason Johnston-Garcia, Christian Corsino, Mykael Luchay, Alan Day, Kenneth McCann, Jim Harrington, Bryan Miller, Tyler Heinz, Karinne Much, Jason Hickman, Richard Piott, Trenton Hicks. Nathan Posa, Codymicheal Holman, Evan Radloff, Steven

Radosevitch, Eric Springer, Dennis Stroble, Jeramy Swain, Jr., Terry Thomas, Peter Chris Thompson, David Timpe, Chris



Relatives and Friends:

Arbuckle, Amy & Matthew Balastieri, Casey Barber, Steve & Kitty Beeftink, Paul Bluver, Linda & son Blyth, Ruby Brace, Quin Brugger, Tristan Burkhardt, Faith & Dina Cahoone, Bill Campano, Thomas
Cato, Cecelia
Cipollone, Elaine
Crooks, Candi
DeVenuto, Lisa
Dortin, Rachel
Drake, Matthew
Farmer, Tom
Fidwell, Eloise
Fowler family

Fratto, Joseph
Garling, John
Gifford, Judy
Goetter, Thomas
Goforth, Jeffrey
Goodloe, Ernestine
Graves, Janice &Declan
Hertel, Karl
Hunt, Jim
Iudiciani, Georgia

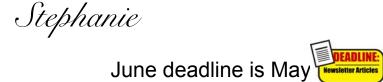
Johnson, Jim
Kraft, Carter
Lahera, Andy
Lavaja, Jim
Lewellen, Emily Anne
Lobenthal, Jean
Loftin, Tracy
Longworth, Kathy
Lublemon family
Lundsford, Victoria

Parruche, Linda Ama	Scheetz, Cathy & Family	Welch, George
Pope, Jeff	Sillen, Rita	Wells, Emmarie
Pufahl, Jean	Small, Brenda & Steven	Wierzel, Rosalee
Queen, Max	Smrdel, Louis	Williams, Dorothy
Rajotte, Keith	Smrdel, Terri	Wilson, Karen
Ralph, Bruce	Stewart, Sam	Wizard, Joe & Dana
Rambaldini, Jim	Stuart, Neil & Family	Wolff, Jack
Reiner, Linda	Thatcher, Jean	Wood, Harper
Riccio, Gino	Thompson, Lori	Woods, Donna Jean
Robertson, Jeanine	Traywick, Edward	Woolf, Nick
Rothmeyer, Heidi	Tuegel, Chuck	Wright, Matthew
Sbani, Carol	Vulkelich, Alejandra	
FFFFF	Pope, Jeff Pufahl, Jean Queen, Max Rajotte, Keith Ralph, Bruce Rambaldini, Jim Reiner, Linda Riccio, Gino Robertson, Jeanine Rothmeyer, Heidi	Pope, Jeff Pufahl, Jean Queen, Max Rajotte, Keith Ralph, Bruce Rambaldini, Jim Reiner, Linda Riccio, Gino Robertson, Jeanine Rothmeyer, Heidi Small, Brenda & Steven Smrdel, Louis Smrdel, Terri Stewart, Sam Stuart, Neil & Family Thatcher, Jean Traywick, Edward Tuegel, Chuck

Please take this prayer list and use it in your private or family devotions in the coming month. You can see that our congregation has a great many people who are in need of our prayers. Please let us know if your loved one is no longer serving in the military. Contact gslchernando@gmail.com for any updates.

Newsletter Editor

ALL submissions for the **newsletter** or website should be sent to gslchernando@gmail.com. Remember, the online versions of the newsletters have some interactive features. Be sure to find out more information by clicking on pictures, icon, or art. The editor looks up information when researching content and feels the readers may be interested also. If you have any ideas, feel free to share.







"It's p'ooo'/ time again!"

SUNDAY SCHOOL/NURSERY

Susan Fowler

USHERS 10:00

5th & 12th

Carole and Randy Wagner Gary Bush

19th & 26th

Dave and Peg Bocker Gary Knecht

MEDIA CENTER

Fran Stetson John Gifford Joe Adams Dan Cashman



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LECTORS

May 5th
Ginny Godpadze

May 12th Marty Zararcyzk

> May 19th Linda Koch

May 26th John Giammasi

DEACON in Training

John Colson



CHURCH STAFF The Rev. Dennis W. Koch Pastor

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Administrative Assistant Shirley McField

Phone: 352-746-7161 Email: gschurch@live.com

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Building / Property

Harv Johnson 352-270-3391

Christian Education

Sue Fowler 352-464-0571

Enduring Gifts

Dan Cashman. 352- 400-6024

Evangelism

Ron O'Keefe 401-474-0416

Fellowship

John & Elaine Giammasi 352-527-8706

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Gail Sotrines 352-860-1765

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Sharon Maxwell 352-249-7032

Pastoral Care

Intern Rick Mainster 352-207-8140

Social Ministry

Vera Swade 352-637-5308

Stewardship

Tom Stickler 610-659-5553

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Fran Stetson 352-419-7227

Worship & Music

Renate Williams 352-228-7809

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Ron O'Keefe 401-474-0416

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Stewardship

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Sally Hennessy 440-796-9055



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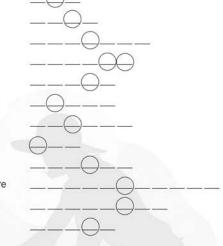
Kid's Corner



Peter says beauty shouldn't come from outward adornment. How does a godly woman adorn herself on the inside?

Directions: From each list, write the word that doesn't belong. Then insert the circled letters in order below to complete 1 Peter 3:4, NIV.

flower, stem, bee, leaf pink, red, yellow, blue mother, sister, brother, aunt purple, dress, skirt, blouse necklace, ring, bracelet, braid diamond, emerald, heart, ruby orange, cherry, potato, kiwi my, our, she, your faith, family, love, hope sunny, rainy, snowy, temperature cookie, cake, pie, sandwich silver, white, gold, bronze



"Rather, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a g__ and qu _ _ _ p_ _ _, which is of great worth in God's sight." 1 Peter 3:4, NIV

Answers: bee, pink, brother, purple, braid, heart, potato, she, family, temperature, sandwich, white; gentle, quiet, spirit





a fun Flower Frog

A flower frog sits atop a vase to help arrange flowers and hold stems in place. This personalized frog will become a favorite!

What you need:

- · Air-dry clay
- Roller
- Vase (or jar)
- Plastic knife
- Straw
- Acrylic paint and brushes



What you do:

- 1. Roll out a portion of clay to about 1/2-inch thickness.
- 2. Cut out a circle that's slightly larger than the vase opening. (This will allow the finished frog to sit securely on top.)
- 3. To make holes for stems, use a straw to punch out circle shapes. If you make more than one frog, try arranging the holes in different patterns.
- 4. Let dry completely. Then personalize your work with acrylic paint.
- 5. When dry, place the frog atop the vase. Arrange flowers and greenery to make a Mother's Day bouquet.



