

The Joyful Noiseletter®

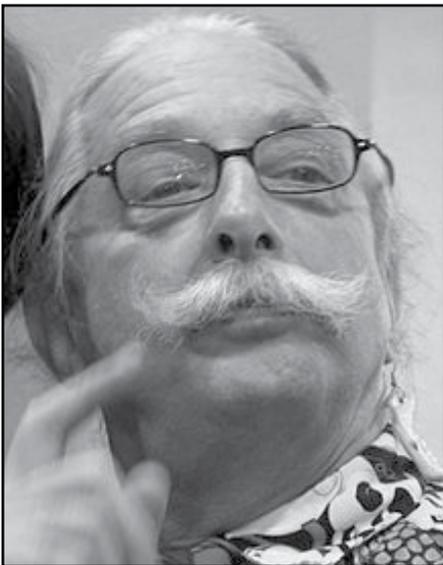


"Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth." Psalm 98:4

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Patch Adams, M.D.

The saga of Patch Adams – clown-prince of physicians

Before the movie "Patch Adams" made him famous, Hunter ("Patch") Adams, M.D., "the clown-prince of physicians," contributed some wise and wacky articles to the early issues of *The Joyful Noiseletter*.

Patch, a *JN* consulting editor, is a remarkable man with an extraordinary story that the movie told only in part. As a young physician in Washington, D.C., Patch became so serious about everything that he became deeply depressed, tried to kill himself, and committed himself to a mental hospital.

There the real Patch Adams discovered the healing power of faith, humor, and love, and added humor and clowning to his medical practice.

Patch is still engaged in his endless campaign to humor and humanize the often chilly world of high-tech medicine.

He believes that humor, laughter, play, celebration, joy, faith, compassion, creativity, and good nutrition are integral parts of the healing process. He has traveled extensively with his clown troupe to 70 countries, including refugee camps, with that message.

Building a free clinic

A popular speaker, he has personally raised \$1 million in speaker's fees for his organization, the Gesundheit Institute, to realize his dream of establishing the Patch Adams Teaching Center and Clinic in West Virginia.

Patch has enlisted the support of health professionals, including doctors, and nurses, who will live and work at the center, along with their patients, and offer free medical services to patients in one of the poorest rural areas in West Virginia.

(continued on page 4)

"The arrival of a good clown exercises more beneficial influence upon the health of a town than of 20 asses laden with drugs."

—Dr. Thomas Sydenham
17th-century English physician

The Lord's Laughter

"The One whose throne is in heaven sits laughing,"
Psalm 2:4

Humor for the hard times

One night, a man was involved in a serious car accident at an intersection where there was a Shell service station. He was thrown from the car and knocked cold.

When the EMT personnel finally helped him regain consciousness, the man began to thrash around wildly and scream at the top of his lungs.

The EMT team gave him a shot to calm him down, and on the way to the hospital in an ambulance, they asked him why he went berserk when he came to.

"Well, the man replied, "when I came to, I knew I was in an accident, it was dark, and these guys were standing over me, and behind them was a Shell sign – but someone was standing in front of the 'S.'"

—Columnist Smiley Anders
Baton Rouge (LA) Advocate

Seen on a tombstone in Hartscombe, England:

On the 22nd of June,
Jonathan Fiddle went out of tune.

A preacher finished his sermon with an altar call, inviting people to accept Christ as their savior. A 90-year-old man came forward with a request to be baptized.

The preacher immersed the man in the baptistry and brought him up out of the water. To the preacher's surprise, the man plunged back down into the water a second time.

"Why did you do that?" the preacher asked when the man came back up. "You were already baptized."

"Had to get my teeth," the man replied.
—via Rev. Dr. Karl R. Kraft
Dover, DE

In his first Sunday in a new church, a pastor was presenting the children's message, and noted the magnificent stained-glass windows in the

sanctuary. His message centered on how each of us is called to help make up the whole picture of the life of the community of the faithful.

"Like the pictures in the windows, it takes many little panels of glass to make the whole picture," he said. "You see, each one of you is a little pane." And then pointing to each child, he said, "You're a little pane. And you're a little pane. And you're a little pane. And..."

The entire congregation exploded with laughter.

—via Rev. Dr. Karl R. Kraft
Dover, DE



Jokes pastors can tell

If...

If you can start the day without caffeine,

If you can resist complaining and boring people with your troubles,
If you can eat the same food every day and be grateful for it,

If you can understand when your loved ones are too busy to give you any time,

If you can take criticism and blame without resentment,

If you can conquer tension without medical help,

If you can relax without alcohol,
If you can sleep without the aid of drugs.

Then you are probably the family dog.

—via Rise Samra
Hallandale Beach, FL



God's kids say & do the funniest things

When she reached the age of five, a little girl began asking her Mom about heaven.

Her first question was, "Mama, when we get to heaven will we have skin?"

"I don't know," her mother replied.

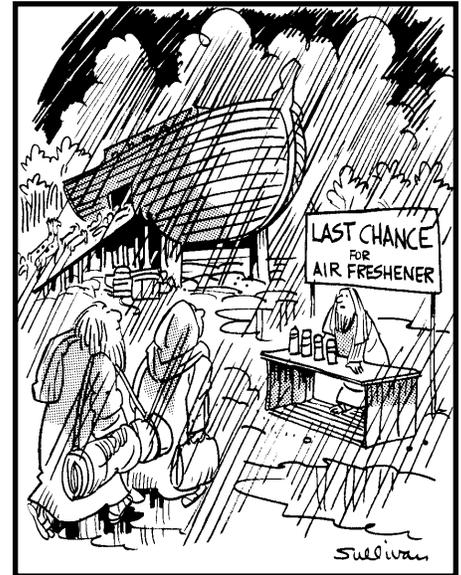
The girl asked several more questions about heaven over the next few days, and each time, her Mom said that she did not know.

Finally, the girl got very upset and blurted out, "Mama, why don't you just Google it?"

—Columnist Smiley Anders
Baton Rouge, LA, Advocate



A grandfather reported, "My 3-year-old grandson was becoming impatient in church while waiting



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Jackie Gleason as 'Noah'

After seeing the unbiblical movie extravaganza starring Russell Crowe, a friend of Rev. Karl R. Kraft of Dover, DE, reported:

"I once had a dream that comedian Jackie Gleason played Noah in the movie. Gleason was spectacular. As the first drops of rain started to fall, Gleason bellowed out, 'And away we go...' Gleason's version, in my dream, seemed to be closer to the Biblical one than Crowe's version."

for his brother's christening.

"Finally, he asked, 'Just when are they going to crucify my brother?'"

—via Jeff Totten
Hammond, LA



Bloopers that gnash the teeth

In a church newsletter, caption for photo taken in front of the Eiffel Tower: "Ridgeview Baptist College students visit London."



Pastor Lane Sapp of Calvary Moravian Church in Winston-Salem, NC, received an e-mail from a church member asking to add the name of a loved one on the weekly bulletin prayer list. Rev. Sapp forwarded the member's e-mail request to the church's administration assistant with a note intending to say, "put on prayer list," but instead typed, "spit on prayer list."

Cartoons for Church Publications and Web Sites

Pastors and editors who are JN subscribers may reprint any of the cartoons in JN in their local church publications, such as newsletters, bulletins, fliers, posters, and signs, and church web sites, free-of-charge, and without further permission. Please include the credit lines which appear below each cartoon.

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Jeff and Bil Keane



"I'm done. Do you need me to put in a good word for you 'bout anything?"

from JoyfulNoiseletter.com
Reprinted with permission of Bil Keane



"So that's what tithing was all about."

from JoyfulNoiseletter.com
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When Mega-churches get awkward:

You don't remember me?
You led me to the Lord.
You baptized me and disciplined me.
You signed my Bible.
You married me to my wife--
your daughter.

from JoyfulNoiseletter.com
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INHERIT THE MIRTH by Cuyler Black



David, there's a Mrs. Gokath here to see you.

from JoyfulNoiseletter.com
©Cuyler Black
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SPEED BUMP by Dave Coverly



YOU'RE NOT GOING TO MEET SOMEONE DRESSED LIKE THAT?

from JoyfulNoiseletter.com
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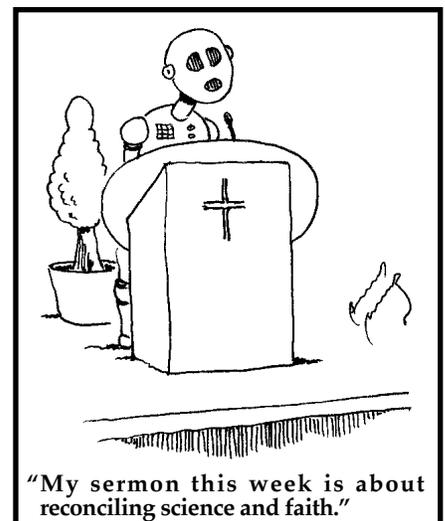
"You have to expect a little stage fright for some of the new ones."

from JoyfulNoiseletter.com
©Ron Morgan
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"Who would like to close in prayer without doing rock-paper-scissors?"

from JoyfulNoiseletter.com
©Tim Oliphant
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"My sermon this week is about reconciling science and faith."

from JoyfulNoiseletter.com
©Scott A. Masear
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The real Patch Adams, M.D. – building a free clinic

(continued from page 1)

The teaching center is “a project in holistic medical care,” and the clinic’s doctors and nurses have committed themselves to work for very modest salaries on 320 acres of land.

“My role models of devoted and caring service were Dr. Albert Schweitzer and Dr. Tom Dooley,” Patch wrote in his book, *Gesundheit!*

“Faith is the cornerstone of our inner strength, a personal, passionate belief in something of inexhaustible power and mystery... Patients who are full of God need less medication.”

The clinic will focus not only on the healing power of humor, play, clowning, and recreation, but also on the health benefits of good nutrition and physical fitness.

“We will use nature to rekindle wonder and curiosity,” Patch said. “Whether walking up our mountain, fishing in the lake, or studying with a microscope, patients and staff will find rapture in nature’s bosom.”

Nature as physician

“Nature, the attending physician, will help us explore beauty and inspiration. The gardens will have a palette of color, sound, smell, and touch that will melt even the hardest heart. Everybody will have a hand in creating the gardens.”

Patch recommends a balanced, nutritious, plant-based diet, and suggests visitors bring fresh-cut fruits and vegetables on platters for hospital patients and staff.

Patch hopes to complete the center in three years. It will provide sleeping, eating, and meeting space for up to 100 visitors. It will house an extensive research library of over 30,000 titles, including all of the editions of *The Joyful Noiseletter* which Patch has received as a subscriber. Patch said he has read every issue of *JN* for the past 30 years, and said he hoped *JN* would continue to be published for another 30 years.

A young woman medical doctor in a Kalamazoo, MI, hospital observed recently that “some of the old guard in the medical profession scoffed at

Patch Adams when the movie came out, but Patch has made a difference with the younger doctors.”

The idea for a free hospital may seem bizarre, unless you have read the New Testament and know that Jesus and his disciples healed many of the sick and suffering from a variety of ailments – without charging them a shekel – a major reason for the great popularity of early Christianity among the masses. They did this with faith, love, and good cheer and by encouraging people to change their unhealthy lifestyles.

Additional information on the Patch Adams Teaching Center and Clinic is available from the *Gesundheit* Institute, 122 Franklin St., Urbana, IL 61801, or from its web site – PatchAdams.org.



House Calls

JN's catalog is now offering Patch Adams' book, *House Calls*, in which Patch, who still makes house calls, offers some wise and entertaining advice on “how we can all heal the world one visit at a time.”

Patch's book shows anyone how to visit hospital patients and out-patients and bring love, humor, compassion, friendship, and hope to promote healing. The book is merrily illustrated with cartoons by Jerry Van Amerongen. In this book you'll see the real Patch Adams whom you saw only in part in the movie.

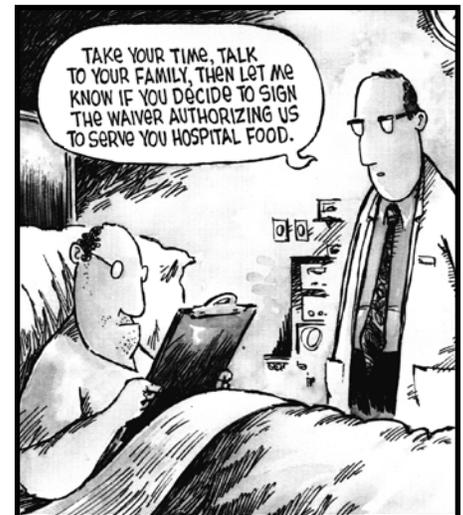
***House Calls* (No. 3188) may be ordered for \$11.95 plus \$8.95 for shipping and handling from *JN*'s web site – joyfulnoiseletter.com – or by calling toll-free 1-800-877-2757.**

Maya Angelou, the celebrated poet who authored “I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings,” Tweeted a friend the following words shortly before she died at the age of 86:

“Listen to yourself and in that quietude you might hear the voice of God.”

SPEED BUMP

by Dave Coverly



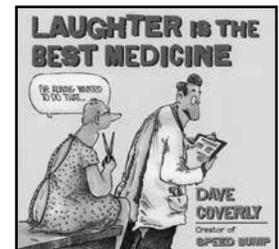
from *Laughter Is The Best Medicine*
© Dave Coverly
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Laughter Is The Best Medicine

JN contributing cartoonist Dave Coverly, the creator of the award-winning “Speed Bump” cartoons, is the author of a new book of hilarious cartoons skewering health professionals and spoofing the quirks of patients.

It's just what the doctor ordered: the perfect gift to help a hospital patient, out-patient, or health professional feel better. It's a delightful companion to Patch Adams' book, *House Calls*.

The hardcover book (No. 5094 in the new *JN* catalog) may also be ordered for \$9.95 plus postage and handling from *JN*'s web site – joyfulnoiseletter.com – or by calling toll-free 1-800-877-2757.



New *JN* web site

For our 30th anniversary, we have redesigned *JN*'s web site and added new articles, cartoons, and new offerings of books. You can check it out and order from joyfulnoiseletter.com.

"Humor is a rubber sword – it allows you to make a point without drawing blood."

—Mary Hirsch
via Fr. Brian Cavanaugh
Steubenville, OH

Signs and wonders

Autumn sign outside Lititz (PA) Moravian Church:

"Seasons change. God doesn't."

Sign outside Lititz (PA) Church on Halloween:

"God never tricks but always treats."
—via Pastor Dean Jurgen

Sign outside So. Seminole Church of Christ, Winter Park, FL:

"Worry won't prevent tomorrow's joys, but it will prevent today's joys."
—via Bobbe Lyon
Maitland, FL

Sign in a veterinarian's waiting room:

"Be back in 5 minutes. Sit! Stay!"
—via Lowell B. Yoder
Holland, OH

Sign outside Emmanuel United Methodist Church, Granger, IA:

"Cross-eyed people have the best vision."
—via Pastor Dale Schoening
Woodward, IA

Sign in the parking lot of Kimpville Presbyterian Church, Virginia Beach, VA:

"Thou shalt not exit here."
—via Marnelle Thomsen
Virginia Beach, VA

Sign in the Aurora, CO, public library:

"We guarantee fast service, no matter how long it takes."
—via Joseph Basehart
Aurora, CO

"Common sense and a sense of humor are the same thing, moving at different speeds. A sense of humor is just common sense, dancing."

—William James
via Rev. Dr. Karl R. Kraft
Dover, DE

Stewardship: bring in the bucks with humor

The collection plate was being passed in a Plaquemine, LA, church, and little Mary's father gave her \$2 "to give to Jesus."

As the usher approached their pew, a concerned Mary blurted out, "Daddy, that's not Jesus, it's Sophie's Daddy!"

—Columnist Smiley Anders
Baton Rouge (LA) Advocate

\$1

"When we place money in the offering plate, we are not really giving to the Lord. We are simply taking our hands off what already belongs to Him."
—Author unknown

\$1

An imaginative inventor has designed a new offering plate for churches. The ingenious invention receives gifts of a dollar or more on a plush cushion with silent graciousness. But when half-dollars are dropped in, it rings a bell; when quarters are given, it blows a whistle; when dimes are slipped in, it fires a shot. But when someone refuses to give, it takes their picture.
—Stan Toler

\$1

"Stewardship is what a man does after he says, 'I believe.'"
—W.H. Greever

\$1

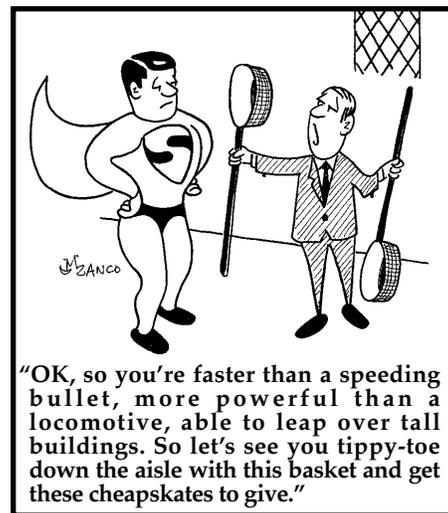
The Seventh Commandment of Stewardship:

"Thou shalt not commit spiritual adultery by holding money to thy bosom, rather than cultivating love for the Lord in thy heart."
—Author unknown

\$1

A prayer for joy

Grant to us, O Lord,
the royalty of inward happiness,
and the serenity which comes
from living close to Thee.
Daily renew in us the sense of joy,
and let the eternal spirit of the Father
dwell in our souls and bodies,
filling every corner of our hearts
with light and grace; so that,



"OK, so you're faster than a speeding bullet, more powerful than a locomotive, able to leap over tall buildings. So let's see you tippy-toe down the aisle with this basket and get these cheapskates to give."

from *Laughter Is The Best Medicine*
©M. Larry Zanco
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"God isn't going to ask you how he created the earth. He already knows. He's going to ask, 'What did you do with what I created?' If we're leaving a footprint that destroys the earth, we've failed to be good stewards."

—Rich Cizik
National Association for Evangelicals
Apple Seeds

\$1

There wasn't even a collection plate at the open-air revival meeting, so the parson provided his hat. It was passed, but returned empty. The preacher looked casually inside, bowed his head and prayed... "Lord I'm thankful to get the hat back."

—via George Goldtrap
Ormond-by-the-Sea, FL

\$1

"God loves a cheerful giver."

—2 Corinthians 9:7

\$1

bearing about
with us the infection of good
courage,
we may be diffusers of life,
and may meet all ills and cross
accidents
with gallant and high-hearted
happiness,
giving Thee thanks always for all
things.

—Robert Louis Stevenson

Pope Francis' new book: *The Joy of The Gospel*

(Longtime *JN* subscriber Fr. Michael Taras Miles, pastor of St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church, Belfield, ND, sent *JN* editors an extraordinary new book by Pope Francis titled *The Joy of The Gospel*. The book by the Argentinian-born Pope, published by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, is very much in the spirit of *The Joyful Noiseletter*, Fr. Miles said. The following article includes excerpts from the book.)

Pope Francis, a former nightclub bouncer who did not endear himself to some of his colleagues in the Catholic Church when he called them "sourpusses," begins his book with this statement:

"The joy of the Gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus. Those who accept his offer of salvation are set free from sin, sorrow, inner emptiness, and loneliness. With Christ joy is constantly born anew..."

"The great danger in today's world, pervaded as it is by consumerism, is the desolation and anguish born of a complacent yet covetous heart, the feverish pursuit of frivolous pleasures, and a blunted conscience. God's voice is no longer heard, the quiet joy of his love is no longer felt, and the desire to do good fades. Many believers, too, fall prey to it, and end up resentful, angry, and listless..."

"No one is excluded from the joy brought by the Lord. God is always capable of restoring our joy; he makes it possible for us to lift up our heads and start anew..."

Old Testament Joy

"The books of the Old Testament predicted that the joy of salvation would abound in messianic times. The prophet Isaiah exultantly salutes the awaited Messiah: 'You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy' (9:3). 'Shout

aloud and sing for joy!' (12:6) 'Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth! Break forth, O mountains, into singing!' (49:13)

"The Gospel, radiant with the glory of Christ's cross, constantly invites us to rejoice," the Pope writes. "'Rejoice!' is the angel's greeting to Mary (Lk 1:28). Mary's visit to Elizabeth makes John leap for joy in his mother's womb (Lk 1:41). Mary proclaims, 'My spirit rejoices in God my Savior' (Lk 1:47).

"When Jesus begins his ministry, John cries out, 'For this reason, my joy has been fulfilled' (Jn 3:29). Jesus himself 'rejoiced in the Holy Spirit' (Lk 20:21).

"His message brings us joy: 'I have said these things to you, so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.' (Jn 15:11).

"Jesus promises his disciples: 'You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy.' (Jn 16:30). 'But I will see you again and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you.' (Jn 16:22). The disciples 'rejoiced' (Jn 20:20) at the sight of the risen Christ.

"Wherever the disciples went, 'there was great joy' (Acts 8:8). Even amid persecution they continued to be 'filled with joy' (Acts 13:52).

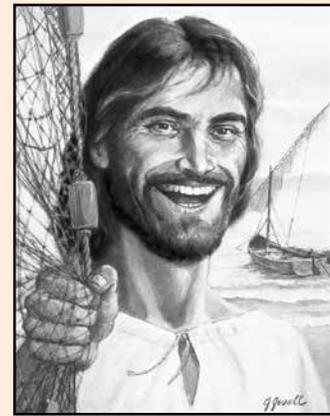
Readers of *The Joyful Noiseletter* will be very familiar with these Scripture passages on joy because they have been repeated frequently in *JN* articles by Catholic, Protestant, and Eastern Orthodox authors for 30 years.

A Library of Joy

In fact, over the past 30 years, *JN* has received, collected, and cataloged 380 books on Christian and Jewish joy and humor by authors from a variety of faith traditions. We are happy to add Pope Francis' new book to our collection.

"Why should we not also enter into this great stream of joy?" Pope Francis asks. "There are Christians whose lives seem like Lent without Easter.

"Our technological society has



© & © Fellowship of Merry Christians

The Risen Christ by the Sea

"These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be full." (John 15:11)

succeeded in multiplying occasions of pleasure, yet has found it very difficult to engender joy. I can say that the most beautiful and natural expressions of joy which I have seen in my life were in poor people who had little to hold on to.

"An evangelizer must never look like someone who has just come back from a funeral!"

Pope Francis solidified his role as a peacemaker when he requested that

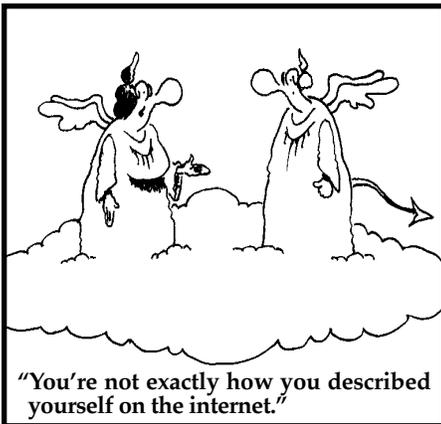
(continued on page 8)

The Pope's namesake

Pope Francis took the name of one of the most beloved figures in Christendom. Joy and wit were the trademarks of St. Francis of Assisi (d. AD 1226), and he considered himself a "fool for Christ." Francis would often laugh and frolic, sing and dance.

Francis lived a modest lifestyle and was devoted to service to the poor. He was a nature-lover and peace-maker, and won the respect of the Moslems when he traveled to the Middle East and made an effort to make peace between the Christian Crusaders and the Moslems.

Francis left as one of his legacies this prayer, which reads in part: "Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace; where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is sadness, joy; where there is despair, hope; and where there is darkness, light."



from *JoyfulNoiseletter.com*
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Crunchy Moms seek healthy lifestyles

Rev. Dr. Paul Naumann, pastor of St. Michael Lutheran Church, in Portage, MI, called *JN's* attention to an extraordinary new organization of independent-minded women who call themselves "Crunchy Moms."

The "Crunchy Moms" web site describes them as follows:

"A Crunchy Mom is a woman on a quest for more information, a Mom who is environmentally, health, and socially conscious. She cares enough about her family to question the status quo.

"She tries to discover the root cause of the problems she observes. When we know better, we do better. A Crunchy Mom is a Mom who fosters a strong, positive bond with her children through natural healthy living.

"A Crunchy Mom sees herself on a journey to find out how best to care for her family in light of both tradition and research."

One of the articles on their web site is titled "The Fast Food Monster"; another is "Save Money on Healthy Groceries without Coupons."

You can see these articles and join the growing Crunchy Moms community by registering online at crunchymoms.com.

"I've done benefits for all religions. I'd hate to blow the hereafter on a technicality."

—Bob Hope

How do pastors remember names?

Rev. Robert Thompson, pastor of Corinth Reformed United Church of Christ, Hickory, NC, has a congregation of over 1,000 and another 500 or more non-members attending Sunday services. But he says he has trouble remembering names.

He has a few of his own suggestions for remembering names:

- Stop aging.
- Limit the size of the congregation.
- Never move to a new church after age 50.
- Use nicknames, not real names.

"My number-one strategy is not to feel guilty that I can't remember

everyone's names," said Thompson. "Some people are good at it, but ADD people like me find it very difficult to focus our brains long enough to imprint a name and a face."

He said the church has "'friendship pads' in our services, and we transfer those names to an Excel spreadsheet during the week, taking note of their first visit and most recent visit. I review those names on Saturday night, and highlight them on the spreadsheet."

Thompson added, "I would love to know what other pastors do to remember names. Maybe *JN's* readers will provide some good ideas."

Jesus as cook?

News item in *The Florida Catholic* newspaper, a publication of Orlando, FL, Hospital, via Bobbe Lyon of Maitland, FL:

"VATICAN CITY – When Christians pray, 'Give us this day our daily bread,' it reflects needs that Jesus took seriously, even to the point of cooking for his disciples, said Fr. Giovanni Cesare Pagazzi, author of a new book, *La Cucina de Risorto* ('The Cooking of the Risen One')."

"The author said the book is based on the premise that Jesus knew how to cook, practiced the culinary arts, and knew its secrets and traditions.

"Father Pagazzi said the term 'Good Shepherd' has a double meaning. For Jesus, part of being the Good Shepherd is being 'he who nourishes.'"

"Some people dig their graves with their teeth."
—Benjamin Franklin

"To preserve health is a moral and religious duty, for health is the basis of all social virtues."

—Samuel Johnson
via *Apple Seeds*

One-Liners

Words reportedly first said on Noah's Ark: "Are we there yet?"

"He (an attorney) has the gift of compressing the largest amount of words into the smallest amount of thought."
—Winston Churchill

"It's not how old you are but how you are old."
—Marie Dressler

"My choices in life were either to be a piano player in a bordello or a politician, and to tell the truth, there's hardly any differences."
—President Harry Truman

"If you get to thinkin' you're a person of some influence, try orderin' somebody else's dog around."
—Advice from an old farmer

"No mind is thoroughly well organized that is deficient in a sense of humor."
—Samuel Taylor Coleridge
via Rev. Dr. Karl R. Kraft, Dover, DE

"Man's worst sin towards our fellow creatures is not to hate them, but to be indifferent to them; that's the essence of inhumanity."

—George Bernard Shaw

Epistles to the Editor

Thank you for your continued excellence on your *Noiseletter*. I have used it many times over the years at various presentations, and always received good responses. I sent a gift subscription to a friend recently, and he is overjoyed with it. Keep up your inspired work."

—Claudi Fisher
Presbyterian Women, Inc.
Powell, WY

"JN is fun to read! Really entertaining!"

—Elizabeth May Le Leux
Tulsa, OK

"My wife Judy and I were in Austin, TX (far from our Michigan home), and searched the Internet for 'Holy Humor Sunday – Austin.' We found Grace United Methodist Church, and arrived by 11 a.m. for a cheerful and grace-filled time of worship, fun, joy, and restoration. 'The Risen Christ by the Sea' painting was on the song screen, and on the church bulletin. We sang 'Deck the halls with Easter lilies,' and 'Joyful, Joyful We Adore You.'"

—Dan Ellsworth
Eaton Rapids, MI

October is Be-Kind-To-Your-Pastor Month. During this month, you can:

- Thank your pastor.
- Pray for your pastor.
- Encourage your pastor.
- Honor your pastor.
- Humor your pastor.
- Invite your pastor to dinner flavored with good jokes and laughter.
- Tithe.
- Cheer up your pastor with a gift subscription to *The Joyful Noiseletter*. Call toll-free 1-800-877-2757. Or order from the JN web site: joyfulnoiseletter.com

"I am a retired United Methodist pastor, and used a lot of JN's jokes and stories in sermons, and countless cartoons in a monthly newsletter, worship programs, and committee agenda/minutes. I've been known to throw them onto screens in a powerpoint, too.

"I continue to value JN and use the cartoons for a monthly retirement apartment service. The residents always look for the cartoons. As a retiree, I read JN for my own pleasure."

—Rev. Dave Werner
Madison, WI

"Thank you for bringing such joy into the lives of so many. Keep up the great work. Pope Francis would be proud of your efforts."

—William Zavaski
Arlington Heights, IL

"We have been subscribers to your fine *Noiseletter* for some years now and always enjoy the good humor, cartoons and stories. The poem appearing in your May-June 2014 issue titled, "Prayers to Lord of Pots and Pans" needs to give credit to the author, Klara Munkres, who died in 1971. She was a school teacher in Savannah, MO.

"When my wife saw the poem she exclaimed, 'that is the poem my mother had in her kitchen and that we now have in our kitchen! Sure enough, when I looked at the one in our kitchen it was identical to the one in the *Noiseletter*."

"Thanks for keeping holy humor in the forefront."

—J.D. Berlin, Jr.
Winchester, VA

Pope Francis

(continued from page 6)

two long-time friends, a rabbi and a Muslim leader, accompany him on his recent trip to the Middle East.

A Catholic woman who admires Pope Francis and his new book told JN the new Pope could bring more joy to the Catholic Church when following through on his declaration of "zero tolerance" for clergy sex abusers, defrocking the small minority of pedophile priests, and disciplining those bishops who covered up for them.

The Joyful Noiseletter®



is a voice laughing in the wilderness. Our modest aim is to recapture the spirit of joy, humor, unity and healing power of the early Christians.

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"With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation."

—Isaiah 12:3