

Woodpecker takes credit for splintering tree with one peck



America's Heartland
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lightning struck, splintering the tree from top to bottom.

The woodpecker flew over to his buddies, pointed toward the smoldering oak, and said, "Look there what I did."

All too often, people are like that woodpecker, taking credit for things they really have nothing to do with.

You may recall that an Old Testament king by the name of Nebuchadnezzar got into big trouble for taking credit for something that should have been attributed to God. He stood overlooking his kingdom and proclaimed, "Is not this the great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my

own power, and for the honor of my majesty?" (Daniel 4:30).

So, Nebuchadnezzar was feeling like a big stinking deal, ignoring the fact that the Lord is the one who allowed him to be king in the first place and that the Lord is the one who provided all the money and products that allowed Babylon to become what at the time was the showplace of the world.

Well, Nebuchadnezzar was about to learn a costly lesson. Because he took credit for himself instead of giving credit to the Lord, he went from being the majestic king of Babylon to the wild man of Babylon. He grazed in the

fields eating grass alongside the cattle. His hair grew out long and matted together until it looked like feathers and his nails were like the claws of a bird. If Barnum and Bailey had found him, they'd have made him a circus act, selling tickets for people eager to get a glimpse of him. The good news is that, after living like an animal for a very long time, Nebuchadnezzar finally figured out that God deserved all credit, not him. When Nebuchadnezzar understood that, God returned him to the throne as the Babylonian king.

There's a lesson in that for all of us. It seems to be the nature of people to be pride-

ful, saying look my home and my property and possessions that I worked so hard for and bought for myself. That's a dangerous attitude, because when we say that, we're leaving the Lord out of the equation and running the risk of Him delving out the same attitude adjustment to us that he handed out to Nebuchadnezzar all those years ago.

Let us not be like that little woodpecker, telling our buddies, look what I did. Instead, let's go to our buddies and say, "Look there what God did."

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Local Lifesavers Applauded During Ongoing Pandemic

In a year of strife, blood donors have ensured blood is available at local hospitals

Donate Saturday, March 13, 2021 at Irvine First Christian Church

Despite the ongoing pandemic, Kentucky hospitals continue to transfuse blood to patients at higher rates than normal. Kentucky Blood Center, which provides blood to 70+ Kentucky hospitals relies on volunteer donors to roll up their sleeves as often as possible to help meet the needs of neighbors battling injury and illness.

In a time where many are saying, "Something's gotta give," KBC appreciates the thousands of individuals who roll up their sleeves and answer the call to give blood. As a thank you, KBC donors at this upcoming mobile will receive a great t-shirt. In addition, all blood donations made through March 31 will be tested for COVID-19 antibodies. Those who test positive could be recruited to donate convalescent plasma to help treat patients bat-

ting the novel coronavirus. Estill County Community donors are encouraged to donate at the upcoming drive on Saturday, March 13, 2021, from 8 a.m.-1 p.m., in the fellowship hall of Irvine First Christian Church at 270 Main Street, Irvine. Blood donors must be at least 17-years-old (16 with parental consent), weigh at least 110 pounds, be in general good health,

show a photo I.D. and meet additional requirements. Sixteen-year-old donors must have a signed parental permission slip, found at kybloodcenter.org. Appointments are preferred to ensure social distancing. Walk-ins are accepted as space allows. A face covering is required to donate. To schedule a donation, visit kybloodcenter.org or call 800.775.2522.

When The Fire Goes Out

Wednesday, March 10th, 2021 Message
 Bro. Warren Rogers, Retired Baptist Minister

Read Revelation 3:29 and Romans 3:21

A picture that Holman Hunt painted around 1849 - a house where vines cover the front wall, grass covers the sidewalk, rusty hinges, house neglected, indicating that no one cares about the house or its residents. The scene represents a neglected life, a heart where passion has long since cooled. Standing at the door is Jesus Christ, holding a lantern from which the painting is titled, "The Light of The World." The light from the lantern is shining on the house and Jesus has his right hand ready to knock on the door.

The most interesting part of the painting is that there is no latch on the outside of the door. Fifty years later, a viewer of the painting was going to show the artist that he had left out the doorknob on the outside. Holman's reply was, "No, it is not a mistake. The handle is on the inside. Only we can open the door and allow Christ to come in."

Question -- "Does Jesus feel at home in your heart?"

Paul speaking to the Ephesian and Laodicean churches in Revelations 2:5 and 3:19, **"REPENT!"** You may think that repentance is something that the lost must do, but it is something for Christians to do when the passion has dwindled down to a flicker or is gone out.

Far too often we are hesitant, we hang back; not sure of what we should do. Or we walk away from the open door all together. We allow fear and feeble faith to put out the fire of passion for a project or a plan that God has put in our heart. Sad to say, many Christians have a faulty view of God. They see him as incapable of taking care of us in a new venture. Or we may fear that as soon as we walk through that door, He will leave us to fend for ourselves.

Read Hebrews 13:5 and Psalm 94:14

What we need is childlike faith. A young child has no doubt that God can and will do whatever we need.

We need to examine our life and remember who lit the fire in us. **HAS YOUR FIRE GONE OUT?** An oil lamp must have the wick turned up so people can see. We need to stroke the fire inside of us, so people can see Christ in our lives.

When the fire goes out -- Sometimes we get tired of trying.

Story of the monkeys: A bunch of scientists put four monkeys in a confined area with one tree in the middle, with bananas at the top. The monkeys would get showered with water every time they tried to climb the tree. Eventually they quit trying. Then they replaced one monkey at a time, and the new monkeys learned from the old ones. Friends, that how it is with a bunch of people. The old ones influence the new ones. How are you influencing new people as they come into the church?

Romans 12:1-3 and **Ephesians 2:10**, "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."

Read John 12:42 and Matthew 7:21
 Charles Spurgeon: "My dear friends, I am a poor sinner still; And I have to look to Christ every day as I did at the very first."

We have a great commission to help other people grow in the Lord. Are you doing your part? Are you like Charles Spurgeon, looking to Christ every day for guidance?

Until next week I pray that we will all take stock of our lives and tell more people about Jesus our Savior. If you need to talk to me about your salvation or your Christian walk, you may call me at 606-481-0444.

**Bro. Warren Rogers
 Retired Baptist preacher**

Kitchen Diva by Angela Shelf Medearis St. Patrick's Day the Easy Way

My first love is culinary history. Researching, reading and writing about the history of food and recipes is what fuels my passion to share what I've learned in my cookbooks and the articles that I write for newspapers, blogs and magazines.

When I was asked to write a column about St. Patrick's Day, I discovered the fascinating history of Irish potatoes. The people of Ireland embraced the potato around 1780. The crop rapidly became the primary source of food for most of the population.

Potatoes are nourishing and filling, and contain most of the vitamins needed in our daily diet. The crop also is a popular food source around the world because it only requires an acre of land and will grow under almost any conditions.

An Irish potato is covered with an off-white or cream-colored skin. The flesh is creamy white. Black flecks or marks often mottle the flesh of the potato, but have no impact on the flavor. An Irish potato is waxy, which makes it hold its shape when boiled, a common cooking technique in Ireland. The potatoes also are delicious when fried, roasted or broiled. However, the potato's waxy texture makes it gluey and dense when mashed, so select another variety like a Russet or Yukon gold for this purpose.

In the mid-1800s, a disease caused by a fungus infested potato crops throughout Europe, causing a devastating famine in Ireland. This time period is called the Great Famine or Gorta Mor, meaning "the great hunger." Mass emigration coupled with widespread deaths from starvation caused the Irish population to drop by 20% to 25%. Many Irish families immigrated to America to escape the hardships in Ireland and to start a new life. By 1850, the Irish made up a quarter of the population in Boston, New York City, Philadelphia and Baltimore.

After years of suffering in Ireland, in 1883, the French botanist Alexandre Millardet discovered an effective fungicide to combat the potato blight. Today, potatoes are the world's fourth largest food crop, following rice, wheat and maize. Here's a link to a fascinating animated history about the Irish potato: <https://ed.ted.com/lessons/history-through-the-eyes-of-the-potato>.

My recipe for Irish Sheet Pan Potatoes, Sausage

and Cabbage Bake is an easy way to incorporate the flavor components of a traditional, long-simmering Irish stew in half the time. It also provides the perfect showcase for Irish potatoes while creating a warm and comforting family meal for a St. Patrick's Day or any day of the week.

- Irish Sheet Pan Potatoes, Sausage & Cabbage Bake**
- 3 tablespoons olive or vegetable oil, divided
 - 2 pounds Irish potatoes, quartered
 - 1/2 head green cabbage, sliced into chunks
 - 1 bulb fennel or 3 stalks celery, thinly sliced
 - 1 yellow onion, peeled and roughly chopped
 - 6 cloves garlic, peeled and diced
 - 1 1/2 tablespoons poultry seasoning
 - 1 1/2 teaspoons salt
 - 1 1/2 teaspoons ground black pepper
 - 1/2 teaspoon ground allspice
 - 6 links (about 3-ounces each) Irish banger sausage links, Kielbasa or Bratwurst links



1. Preheat the oven to 400 F.
2. Lightly coat a rimmed, 9-by-13 or 18-by-13 baking sheet with 1 tablespoon of the olive oil, or spray until lightly coated with cooking oil spray.
3. Place the Irish potatoes, cabbage, fennel or celery, onion and garlic on the sheet pan. Drizzle the olive oil over the vegetable mixture. Sprinkle the poultry seasoning, salt, pepper and allspice over the mixture. Combine the mixture with the seasonings with your clean hands or a spoon or spatula.
4. Spread the mixture evenly around the baking sheet and press the ingredients into the bottom of the pan so that everything cooks uniformly. Place the sausages evenly on top of the vegetable mixture.
5. Cook for 20 minutes, stir, press the vegetable mixture into the bottom of the pan so that it is evenly distributed, and turn the sausages over to cook on the other side. Then cook for an additional 20 minutes or until the potatoes are tender when pierced with a fork. Serve with thick slices of hot crusty bread and butter. Serves 6.

Angela Shelf Medearis is an award-winning children's author, culinary historian and the author of seven cookbooks. Her new cookbook is "The Kitchen Diva's Diabetic Cookbook." Her website is www.divapro.com. To see how-to videos, recipes and much, much more, Like Angela Shelf Medearis, The Kitchen Diva! on Facebook. Recipes may not be reprinted without permission from Angela Shelf Medearis.