



St. Bartholomew's Anglican Church

Our Vision: *Transforming lives through a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.*

Our Mission: *To share Christ's love and His Word with our community and the world through Christ-centered outreach, worship, prayer, and biblical study.*

VOLUME 66 NUMBER 5

The Chatter

MAY 2023

THE KEY TO TRUE TRANSFORMATION IS...?

According to our church's vision statement, a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ is the key. But what makes this relationship truly transformational? First, we need to know into whose likeness we are supposed to be transformed. The answer is found in many Scriptures, but Paul sums it up in this way in **Romans 8:29**, ***"For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son."*** In other words, God wants us to become like His Son, Jesus Christ! We become like Jesus by abiding in Him as a branch abides in a vine (Jn. 15:1-8). **But how do we abide?** We abide through the **worship** of the Triune God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **What is worship?** Worship reflects that which we value most in life. It is why our English word, "worship" comes from the old English word, "*worthship*." Whatever is most important in our lives is what we worship. So when we speak of worshipping God - it means putting Him first in all areas of our lives - our time, our relationships, our work, our money - but ultimately our hearts! Jesus highlighted this when He said in **Mt. 6:21**, ***"for where your treasure is, there will be your heart be also."*** Everyone worships every day. God created our hearts for worship. The question always is are we worshipping the Creator or the created? Idolatry is the sin of worshipping the created.

The great 16th century reformer, John Calvin, wrote that *"our hearts are idol making factories."* Whenever we put something before God - our self, our money, our work, our leisure, other people, other religions, any other thing - we are committing idolatry. It shouldn't surprise us that idolatry is the most common sin mentioned in the Old Testament. Jesus was tempted to commit idolatry in all three of His temptations by the devil after He had fasted and prayed in the wilderness for forty days. The most direct example of the three, however, was when the devil showed Jesus all the kingdoms of the world and said that they could be the Lord's if he only would bow down and worship him (the devil.) How did Jesus respond? He rebuked the devil with the Word of God and said in **Lk. 4:8** and quoting **Dt. 6:13**, ***"It is written, "You shall worship the Lord Your God and serve Him only!"*** What we worship is the central issue in life. Otherwise, the first four of the Ten Commandments wouldn't be centered on worship! (**Ex. 20:3-10**)

Continued on Page 2

St. Bart's Web Information

www.stbartston.org

Also see our [Facebook](#) page for more!



St. Bartholomew's
Anglican Church

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Tonawanda, NY 14150
Phone: (716) 831-1777

Continued from Page 1

It is why Jesus said in **Jn. 4:24**, **"God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."** The truth is that we will never have peace or joy until we worship the Living God **consistently**. The great theologian of the early Church, St. Augustine wrote, *"You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you."*

Worship, therefore, is more than simply trying harder to be a better person. It is more than positive thinking based on God's Word. It is more than reading and studying God's Word. It is more than going to church every Sunday. It is more than praying a few prayers. Such practices are vitally important. In fact, they should be incorporated as part of our worship. But worship is meant to be a full spirit, soul and body experience!

It begins with a commitment to refocus all of one's priorities. The most fundamental starting point being spending time with God in prayerful reflection and immersion in God's Word **every day**. If we do not spend time with God in this manner - our transformation in this life is impossible! We may still be saved but *spiritually we will remain stagnant*. Our worship time should focus on the nature of God (His goodness, majesty, glory and so forth), what God has done in history and in our own lives, and what God has promised for our future. It should include reflection on our own shortcomings (sins and failures) and a renewed commitment to be about God's Kingdom as we receive mercy and forgiveness. It should include prayers not just for others and our world but for our work and involvement in our church family. Worshipful prayer also includes consistently looking at how we are ordering our lives. Is what we are doing and how we are handling our resources lining up with the priorities of God's Kingdom.

Our worship is also to be expressed publicly and corporately. It is why we are told in **Hebrews 10:25** says, **"do not forsake...assembling together, as is the habit of some,"** and why Jesus said in **Mt. 18:20**, **"For where two or three have gathered together in my name, I am there in their midst."** It is to be expressed in the way we live and act. Paul writes in **Rom. 12:1**, **"Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship."** The truth is we become like what we worship and we end up becoming a slave of the one whom we worship (**Rom. 6:15-16; 2 Pet. 2:19**).

So what is the key to being transformed into Christ's likeness? It is abiding in relationship with Christ by worshipping the One True God - forever, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit! It involves our entire being - spirit, soul, and body. It is what will lead to true peace and joy! Happy Easter!

Always yours in Christ

Fr. Ward

VESTRY

APRIL 2023

Compass Care's Annual Walk: Due to the threat of violence from radical elements, the format has been changed from three central walks to dozens of local walks. While there are no plans for St. Bart's to host a walk, announcements will be made to notify you of churches who will be hosting. The vestry approved a \$5,000 donation in support of this vital and life-changing ministry.

Upcoming Happenings and Events:

Bishop Atwood's Upcoming Visit: Will be on the weekend of June 9-11, with Holy Confirmation at the 10 am service on June 11th. Four adults and two youth will be confirmed as well as 2 members will reaffirm their confirmation vows.

Mother's Day Breakfast: Will be held on May 13th at 9:00 am. Kathleen Ward has graciously agreed to be the guest speaker.

Father's Day Pancake Breakfast: Will be held on June 18th after the 10:00 service.



**DEADLINE FOR THE JUNE CHATTER is
Tuesday, May 16. Thank you.**

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

The CompassCare weekend rally is just around the corner. It kicks off with our gathering **Friday, May 5th** from 6 to 8PM in the Fr Amend Hall.

There is still time to sign up! The sign up sheet is on the CompassCare Table in the Fr Amend Hall.

You can also still donate online or write a check to "CompassCare" and in the memo write, "St. Bartholomew's 2023 Walk" and place it in the collection plate.

Hope to see you there. Dcn Gary



BIBLE STUDIES



Young Adult Ministry

Young Adults Bible Study

(ages 18-mid 20's) meets every other Sunday at 11:45AM at the church. Contact Will Crosby for more information.

Our next meetings are May 14 and 28.

Wednesday Morning Ladies Bible Study

Meets at 10:30am in the Fellowship Hall

All ladies are welcome to join them.
See Barbara Molison for more information.



Men's Discipleship

meets every Tuesday evening at 6:30pm at the church.

Contact John Krull for more information.



GriefShare

Will resume in September.



Tuesday Night Women's Bible Study

will resume in September. At that time, they will finish the book of Matthew and then begin studying the book of John.



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Please keep those from our Parish Family who are serving our country in the Armed Forces in your prayers. Please let the church office know if there is anyone that should be added to or removed from this prayer list.

Virginia Boy– Navy

Andrew Rebl– Army

James Kerins– Army

Matthew Prohaska– Air Force



FOOD PANTRY: Remember that we collect for the Food Pantry the **first weekend of every month**. This month 33 bags of groceries were taken to the NICAP Food Pantry. They were **thrilled** to receive so much, as their shelves were nearly empty. They extend a huge THANK YOU to the members of St. Bart's who have been so generous.



Food Pantry
Donations Needed

NICAP 265 Falconer St.
N. Tonawanda, NY 14120

Prayer Night

**Thursday, May 18 at
7pm**



The PURSE EXCHANGE

WEDNESDAY, May 24 at 6:30pm

BRING A PURSE– TAKE A PURSE

Come and enjoy fellowship as you search for that perfect purse!
Fruit, desserts, coffee, tea, water will be available.

Sign up in the Fr. Amend Hall

**Questions: Ruth Cleary, Tammy Krull,
Carol Woepfel**



Ushers Needed

Are you willing to serve?

Ushers Needed

We are in urgent need of Ushers (Male or Female) for the 4:30 pm Saturday service and the 8:00 am Sunday service. If you are interested in assisting one Sunday a month in this ministry, please contact Rocco Brindisi at 716-553-0064 or see Fr. Ward.

Music Ministries: Margaret Bukkosy

MUSIC GRANT

I have an opportunity to write a grant for a special music project. It needs to be submitted by June 31. Is there something that you would like to see added to our current music ministry? The grant is competitive and will fund new initiatives or existing programs that want to explore new possibilities. If you have some ideas, please get in touch with me as soon as possible. It can support a traditional, contemporary or children's program. I need input from parishioners! My contact information is below. Thanks!

Soloists and Instrumentalists

Our choir season this spring is nearing an end and I will be looking for soloists and instrumentalists to participate in the music ministry at St. Bart's during the 10:00 a.m. service for the summer. If you play an instrument or like to sing, please get in touch with me at and we can arrange a time to meet.

Choir Awards

Choir Awards for the Children's and Cherub's Choirs will be presented on June 18th at the 10 a.m. service. Thank you to all of the children who have participated this year! It has been a pleasure to work with all of them!

Contact information: mbukkosy@yahoo.com



SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE

Matthew 11:28 says "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." Can you imagine not having a bed to get the rest that you need?

Sleep in Heavenly Peace (SHP) is a national charitable organization with over 270 chapters across the U.S. that builds and deliver beds to kids in need at no cost to that child's family. SHP-Buffalo has delivered 2400 beds to kids in Buffalo in 32 months and we are determined to give kids, ages 3-17 yrs., a safe and comfortable place to lay their heads.

SHP-Buffalo is an entirely volunteer venture. Dedicated volunteers build the beds from scratch at our workshop located at Eastern Hills Mall, then deliver them to homes and set up the beds fully outfitted with new mattresses and new bedding.

SHP-Buffalo accepts donations for NEW twin-size bedding (mattress pads, sheets, comforters, blankets and pillows. St. Barts is going to sponsor a linen drive to help SHP provide beds for children. Please join us on May 7 after the 10:00am service in the Fr. Amend Hall to learn more about our mission. Please contact Jim Thompson or Leslie Percival for additional information.

No Kids Sleep on the Floor in our Town



Next Steps

A Generation Next Newsletter

May 2023



God is bigger than our doubts



It's not easy to express doubt when it comes to matters of faith. We fear that God will be displeased with us, and that our family and friends will judge us. So, we tend to “soldier on” and keep our questions to ourselves, thinking they’ll just go away. But, like the dirty laundry we stuff under our bed to convince our parents that our room is clean, our questions and doubts don’t disappear; they pile up in our hearts until we can no longer ignore them. Thankfully, God is bigger than our doubts and can handle our “dirty laundry”! In this four-week series, we’ll see it really is possible to have questions and doubts while still having faith. Through Scripture, we’ll discover that we don’t need to ignore them or sweep them under the rug. Instead, we can look to Jesus, look to the Holy Spirit, look to God’s words, and look for God in unexpected places.

Next Happenings

Wednesdays, 6:00 - 8:00 pm

Join us for our regular meetings filled with engaging lessons and activities
Dinner provided

Wednesday, May 3rd

6:00 pm Pancake Breakfast Meeting

Save the Date: May 19th

6:00 - 8:30 pm Lasertron Event

Sunday, May 21st

11:30 am Youth Sunday informational meeting

Wednesday, May 24th

6:00 pm Youth Sunday informational meeting

NO Meeting May 31st

Due to VBS volunteer meeting

“so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through Faith:”

Ephesians 3:17a NASB

A Letter From our Director



Liz Burkett

The book of Hebrews tells us that "we do not have a high priest (Jesus) who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin" (Heb. 4:15). What does that mean? It means that Jesus has compassion for us and understands our plight because He experienced it firsthand though unlike us, He never sinned (which matters in establishing His high priesthood and securing our salvation).

The fact that He never sinned doesn't cheapen His experience in "our shoes," He dealt with the same emotions and struggles we deal with. We see this clearly when we read the Gospels. Jesus understands us like no one else can or ever will. Even when Peter and the other disciples expressed doubt, Jesus didn't kick them out or scold them; He challenged them and encouraged them in their faith. Just like when Jacob wrestled with God in the Old Testament, Jesus is willing to wrestle with us in our doubt.

This month I challenge you to take your questions and your doubts into the ring with Jesus, to trust that He is bigger than your doubts and that you will find grace to help you in your time of need (Heb. 4:16). Feel free to bring those doubts to Youth Group too! I would love to discuss them with you and pray with you.

In Christ,
Liz



Save the Date - Wednesday, May 31st: VBS Volunteer Meeting at 6:30pm to discuss the details of Vacation Bible School (July 9-12th from 6-8 pm). The meeting is to help prepare all volunteers for their various roles at VBS.

Save the Date! May 19th ! For this event, we will meet at the Lasertron event center on N Bailey Avenue at 6:00p.m. Pickup will also be at Lasertron at 8:30 p.m. We will be playing Laser Tag twice with Pizza in the middle of the two games. The cost is \$20 per person.



The Breakfast will be on June 18th and will be held in Fr. Amend Hall following the 10am service. Proceeds will go towards Kingdom Bound. Families can buy tickets starting in May after services. On May 3rd at 6pm we will have a Pancake Breakfast Meeting to go over the details of the event and to sign up for specific areas of working the event, such as kitchen help, food prep, waiters, ticket sellers, set up, clean up, and so on.

Save the date - Sunday June 18th. Youth Sunday is coming up in June All youth grades 6-12th are encouraged to participate (feel free to invite your friends to participate) and can choose how they would like to be involved in the service that day. Youth can also participate in the Worship band. Please contact Jim Kibby (kibbyjr@gmail.com) to get involved. There will be an informational meeting for parents and students about Youth Sunday on Sunday, May 21st at 11:30am or Wednesday May 24th at 6:00pm in the Youth Room downstairs.. We will discuss what this service will entail, what the youth will be expected to do, and sign up sheets will be available. Youth wishing to be involved will be required to practice on Saturday, June 17th at 6:00 pm.



PANCAKE BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER

SUNDAY, JUNE 18TH

11:30AM-1:30PM

FATHER AMEND HALL

Tickets: \$12 per person

All proceeds will support the youth attending Kingdom Bound.



Vacation Bible School 2023

COKESBURY'S

HERO HOTLINE

Called Together
to Serve God!



July 9th - 12th

6:00pm - 8:00pm

Family Dinners 5:15pm

To register go to stbartston.org

May Birthdays

1 Susan Horvath, Sydney Lakeman,
Rachel Teall

3 Charles Abramo, Jack Gradzewicz

4 Elizabeth Merrick

5 Joan Calamita, Rosemary Davis,
Valerie Ulrich

7 Alicia Matesic, Eric Miller

8 Asa Begovich

9 Brandon Heacock

11 Caroline Rudin, Scott Ulrich

12 Kathy Dudley

13 James Maier, Anthony Oliveri

14 Gretchen Beyer

15 James Winkler

16 Donald Gwizdowski, Julie Van Lente,
Jeffrey Westerman

17 Evelyn Luckoski, Anna Okiec

21 Donald Beyer

22 Robert Brown, Anthony Luckoski

23 Victoria Martino, Bradley Smith

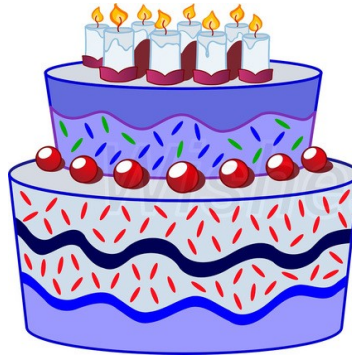
24 Betty Herrmann, Michelle McCarthy

26 Gerald Ciccarelli, Daniel McCarthy

27 Edward Doran, Sharon Scott,
Barbara Weiser

30 Marie Prout

31 Jeffrey Pasisz, Christine Tedesco



“Wishing you
another year
full of
blessings.
Have a Happy
Birthday!”

JUNE

1 Mary Krause, Linda McGee

2 William Ruhland, Craig Schwab

3 Emily Bush

4 Pamela Machelor, Michael Spence Jr.

If you notice a mistake in the birthday list please call (716) 831-1777 or email
the secretaries: secretaries@stbartston.org

MAY 2023

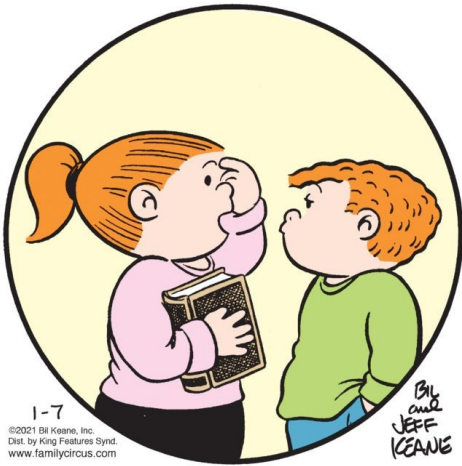
MAY CALENDAR

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|------------------------------------|--|---|---|---|---|
| | 1 | 2 3:30pm Cherub Choir 6:30pm Men's Disc, Neighb. Watch 7pm Vestry Meeting | 3 9:30 am HE 10:30am Women's Bible Study 6pm Youth Group 7pm Adult Choir | 4 6:30pm Book Study "Practical Guide for Culture" | 5 6-8pm CompassCare Rally (Fr. Amend Hall) PIZZA PROVIDED | 6 10 am Dick Volkert Funeral 4:30 pm HE |
| 7 8 & 10 am HE 10am Sunday School 11:30am Children's Choir 11:45am New Mem Class | 8 | 9 3:30pm Cherub Choir 6:30pm Men's Disc. | 10 9:30 am HE 10:30am Women's Bible Study 6pm Youth Group 7pm Adult Choir | 11 6:30pm Book Study "Practical Guide for Culture" | 12 | 13 9am Mother's Day Breakfast Kathleen Ward Speaker 4:30 pm HE |
| 14 Mother's Day 8 & 10 am HE 10am Sunday School 11:30am Children's Choir 11:45am New Mem Class | 15 | 16 3:30pm Cherub Choir 6:30pm Men's Disc. | 17 9:30 am HE 10:30am Women's Bible Study 6pm Youth Group 7pm Adult Choir | 18 6:30pm Book Study "Practical Guide for Culture" 7pm Prayer Service | 19 | 20 9am Men's Breakfast 4:30 pm HE |
| 21 8 & 10 am HE 10am Sunday School 11:30am Children's Choir 11:45am New Mem Class | 22 | 23 3:30pm Cherub Choir 6:30pm Men's Disc. | 24 9:30 am HE 10:30am Women's Bible Study 6pm Youth Group 7pm Cont Choir | 25 6:30-8:30pm Recital Sanctuary & Fr Amend Hall | 26 | 27 4:30 pm HE |
| 28 8 & 10 am HE 10am Sunday School NO Children's Choir rehearsal | 29 Memorial Day (office closed) | 30 3:30pm Cherub Choir 6:30pm Men's Disc. | 31 9:30 am HE 10:30am Women's Bible Study 6pm Youth Group 7pm Adult Choir | | | |

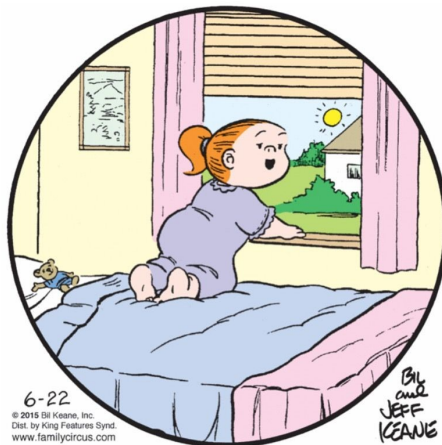
PERSECUTED CHURCH CALENDAR

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|--|--|---|---|---|--|
| May | 1 YEMEN Pray for unity among Yemeni Christians as they are assailed by outside forces. | 2 MAURITANIA Pray for fruitful labor among the body of Christ in this country (Philippians 1:22). | 3 LEBANON Pray that pastors and other Christian leaders will trust God during economic instability. | 4 MALAYSIA Pray that Christians will boldly share the gospel with the Malay people despite its prohibition. | 5 NORTH KOREA Pray for Bible-smuggling efforts, as bordering countries ban transportation of Bibles to North Korea. | 6 TÜRKIYE Pray for the development of more Turkish church leaders. |
| 7 SAUDI ARABIA Pray that online Christian information will reach those whose hearts are open to the gospel. | 8 AFGHANISTAN Pray for Afghan Christians whose belongings are searched at checkpoints. | 9 BHUTAN Pray that Bhutanese Christians in the West will return to their country as gospel workers. | 10 MEXICO Praise God that many indigenous people are coming to faith in Christ. | 11 NIGER Pray that Fulani and Tuareg Christians will witness boldly to family members who persecute them. | 12 COLOMBIA Pray that students in "red zones" will be receptive to the gospel. | 13 SOMALIA Pray for the effectiveness of efforts to share the gospel through social media. |
| 14 INDIA Pray for the growth of biblical disciples, who will joyfully trust Christ amid persecution. | 15 ALGERIA Pray that young pastors receiving theological instruction will mature in faith. | 16 ETHIOPIA Pray that Christians will remain faithful despite attacks by religious groups opposed to the gospel. | 17 MALI Pray for the strength of Christians in the north who face discrimination for following Christ. | 18 TURKMENISTAN Pray for the endurance of pastors and Christians who are isolated and must meet in secret. | 19 AZERBAIJAN Pray for the strength of Christ's followers as they remain faithful to Him. | 20 CAMEROON Pray that Christians from the north will be able to return home after fleeing violent conflicts. |
| 21 KAZAKHSTAN Pray for the growth of God's kingdom in Kazakhstan. | 22 VIETNAM Pray for Christians who have been denied utilities, schooling or medical care because of their faith. | 23 PHILIPPINES Praise God for the bold witness of Bible school graduates. | 24 BRUNEI Pray that Christians will find creative ways of reaching out to Sunni Muslims. | 25 MYANMAR (BURMA) Pray that God will soften the hearts of ethnic Burmese people and draw them to Himself. | 26 INDONESIA Pray for Christians in Indonesia, using Colossians 1:9-12 as a guide. | 27 SUDAN Pray for an effort to get 100,000 New Testaments to people hungry for God's Word. |
| 28 BURKINA FASO Pray for the health, well-being and faith of thousands of Christians living in refugee camps. | 29 SYRIA Pray for productive partnerships among denominational leaders working to advance God's kingdom. | 30 CHINA Pray that Christians will stand firmly for biblical truth amid governmental pressure. | 31 COMOROS Pray that Christians will find ways to meet for Bible study, which can result in imprisonment. | NOTES: | | |

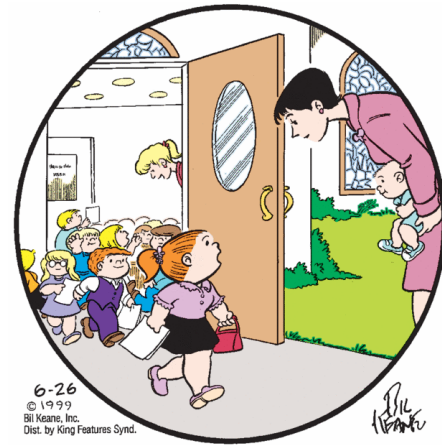
Family Circus and God



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"Conscience is when God sends a text to your head."
Bill and JEFF KEANE



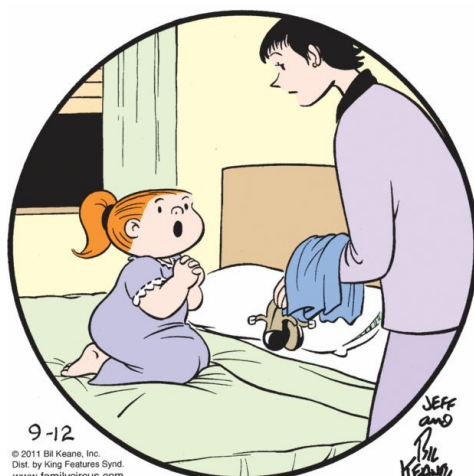
6-22
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"Oh goody! God's having this be a full sun day!"
Bill and JEFF KEANE



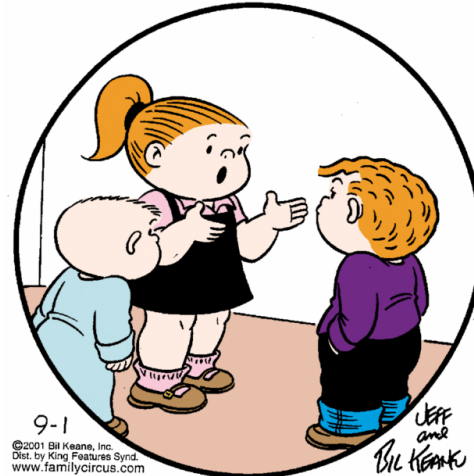
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"Know what? God knew me before I was born, but I can't quite remember Him."
Bill Keane



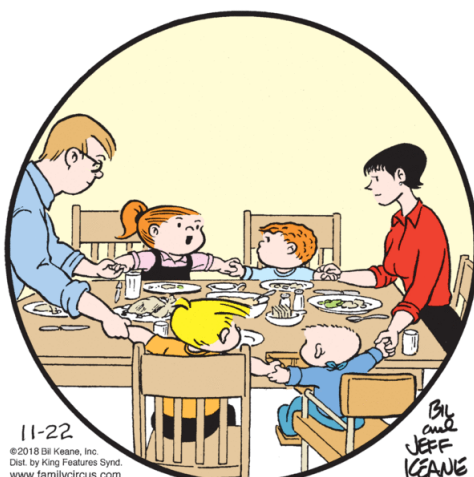
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"Sayin' 'Amen' is like pressing the 'SEND' button for your prayers."
JEFF and Bill KEANE



9-12
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"How many 'Talk to God' minutes does our family plan allow?"
JEFF and Bill KEANE



9-1
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"God never takes a vacation 'cause He can't find anybody good enough to fill in."
JEFF and Bill KEANE



11-22
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"We hafta hold hands while we say grace so nobody gets a head start eating. Right, Mommy?"
Bill and JEFF KEANE



4-3
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"Bless us all."
JEFF and Bill KEANE



"When I get to heaven, do I get to hug God or just shake His hand?"