

# APPLE BUTTER HILL NEWS

*For our children  
and their families  
and friends*



## *From the ABH Clubhouse*

BY PELI

Peli was sitting in one of the classrooms watching a soft snow falling. He thought “how peaceful”. The snow is a winter gift from God to let all the plants and trees take a nap and it covers all the imperfections on the ground. His mind began to wander back over all of his experiences in his faith journey with humans.

Peli recalled some of his experiences living among humans when he was growing up on the beach in Florida. After the humans left there were always lots of papers, cans and other trash left behind so that a pelican had to be very careful walking. He could still hear his mother warning him to watch out for open cans and things with sharp edges. He remembered how sad he was as he carefully walked along the cluttered beach.

God didn't intend for His creation to look like this. God created us to be caretakers of His world. Humans messed this one up. “I wonder what God thinks about our beaches” he thought.

The beach life made Peli sad. He thought if he left the beach it would be different. He heard about “the garden state” and thought it must be a nice place. When he arrived the beaches were littered, too. Peli decided this is my mission- to help humans be better stewards of God's world. He set out to better understand these humans. “I have to find some humans and understand how they think.”

Peli chuckled softly to himself as he remembered the first time he encountered a “dumpster diver”. He recalled walking past a row of stores and seeing two legs hanging over the edge of a dumpster then a person appearing joyfully clasp onto some type of carved wood object.

## *IN THIS ISSUE*

From the ABH  
Clubhouse

Adventures of  
Olivia & Liam

Family Bible Time

Apple Butter  
Mission Team

Children's Events



## Count Your Blessings

Now pelicans are known to dive for fish, and sometimes pick up tuna sandwiches left on a beach. But a human in a dumpster! What sight! After some investigation, he learned that the object of a “dumpster dive” was to find “treasures” that other humans discarded. “I wonder if the person who dumped it ever thought it would be valuable to someone else?”

His mind drifted. There are many things that get discarded that are truly of value, but people don’t recognize it. How sad he thought. God created everything – or gave us the ability to create things like the wooden object. How could someone just discard it? But the diver was so thankful for his new treasure. “Maybe that’s just how humans are” he thought.

His thoughts turned back to tuna sandwiches. “Let me wander down to see what’s in the frig. I am getting a little hungry.”

“Peli, it’s snowing.” Johnny stated as Peli entered the kitchen.

Peli was still focused on dumpster divers. “Johnny, what do you think stewardship is?”

“Well, it’s about our responsibility to care for things. That’s what I read in the dictionary. So I guess as a Christian it means that we should care for all the gifts that God gave us- our church, our friends and our community.”

“Hmmm. Yes. And we need to thank God for all the stuff we have. God has been very good to us. We have a lot of comforts-like this warm home at St. Paul’s and blankets and food.”

“The children learned the first article of the Apostles Creed by studying how God created everything and gave it to us.” Johnny was focused on the idea of taking care of creation.

“We start Lent this month. It is the season when we reflect on our stewardship- our lives, our words and our actions. Lent is about doing “God Things” like how we treat God’s creation. It also includes Counting Our Blessings so we can use them to meet needs at St. Paul and in the community.”

“So I guess being a good steward means that I should thank, praise, serve and obey God every day. That’s a big responsibility!” Johnny replied.

But remember God loves us so He didn’t just leave us out in the cold -pardon the pun- He sent Jesus for us. And that’s what the children will learn next month.” Peli answered.

They walked over to the window and looked out. The snow looked like a thick white comforter.

“Johnny, we have work to do with our stewardship project to Count Our Blessings. Let’s find Grace. We need all hands-on deck for this! I can’t wait to get started.”

*“Before the mountains were brought forth, or land and earth were born, from age to age you are God.”*

PSALM 90: 2

*CHILDREN'S  
PROGRAM  
(9:30AM)*



Our building has started! Let’s keep going!

We have our foundation in the Ten Commandments. Do you know them?

Johnny Awards  
Any child of God can be nominated for this recognition when they apply the Ten Commandments and use their special gifts to help others.



## *Adventures of Olivia & Liam*

Larry was the last one to leave the bus. As he looked out of the door he saw his team about 30 yards away near the playground. Liam and Lucas were waiting for him at the bottom of the bus steps.

Larry's team watched as he walked down the steps. Liam and Lucas were also watching. As Larry walked toward Liam his team turned their backs and walked towards the back of the school. Larry could see that they were following Hank, who was his "go-to" person. It was obvious Hank was the new leader. Larry was out.

Larry wasn't sure what to do. His world had been shattered and now his team left him. As he watched the events unfold his mind raced- "My team deserted me. They are my friends. I have no status without my team to support me. What's next for me now?" Then he looked over and saw Liam and Lucas standing there waiting for him.

"C'mon Larry. The bell will be ringing soon. Let's get to class." Lucas said.

Larry hesitated then he walked towards them, and they headed to the school door. Liam and Lucas walked on either side of Larry. His team watched from a distance as they went into the school.

Liam looked back. He saw Hank and the older boys talking. Hank got in the car with them and the car sped away

### LUNCH

The bell rang for the lunch break. Olivia, Brooke, Emily and Liam hurried out the classroom door to find Lucas. Liam called out "Hey, Lucas wait for us."

Olivia saw Larry standing with Lucas. She silently said a prayer "Dear God please help Larry. Please send the Holy Spirit to show him we are his friends and care about him. Amen"

"Hi Larry will you have lunch with us today?" Emily asked as she walked towards them. Olivia looked surprised because Emily had doubts about inviting Larry to lunch.

"Larry we sit over there in the corner. You can join us- there's plenty of room at the table" Brooke added.

Larry looked towards Lucas and Liam. He wasn't sure what to say. He has always been the one in charge of his team. He called the shots. Now he was being invited to be part of a very different team. Can he trust them? What's in it for them? But he didn't want to eat lunch alone. "Yeah, okay I guess I can sit with you today." He replied.

## *SPECIAL CHILDREN'S MESSAGE*

January 21

February 18

March 17

April 21

May 19

## *"Children's Special Events*

THE FOUNDATION FOR OUR FAITH IS THE TEN COMMANDMENTS. NOW WE WILL START TO BUILD UP OUR HOUSE WITH THE APOSTLES CREED.

JOIN US IN FEBRUARY AS WE LEARN ABOUT WHO GOD IS AND HOW AWESOME HE IS!

*Be Kind*

As they all sat down Olivia announced “ Larry, we start lunch with a prayer to thank God for our food and our friends. Today is my turn to do the prayer.” She lowered her head and started to speak “Dear God, thank you for our lunches today, for our teachers, our friends and especially for bringing Larry back to school safely to be with us. Amen.”

“My Mom made me a ham sandwich today. It’s ham from our dinner yesterday.” Brooke said. “What do you have for lunch?”

“I have a big bag of potato chips with my lunch today.” Emily said. “Who wants some? Larry Do you like potato chips?” She pushed the open bag toward him and dumped some on the table.

“My Mom and I made lots of brownies to take to the shelter yesterday. I kept some out for our lunch today so everyone can take one.” Olivia added. She opened a package containing six large brownies and put it in the center of the table.

Larry was quiet. He was observing all that was happening. It didn’t make sense. Nothing made sense. But the story of the shipwreck kept coming back to him (Acts 27-28). What’s in it for them? Why are they doing this for me?

As she reached for a brownie Brooke said “My Dad came to visit this weekend. I heard him and my mother talking about me. I guess I will be staying with him at his new house sometimes so I may take a different bus. I’m not sure what that will be like.”

“It’s okay Brooke. No matter what, we are all friends so we can still have lunch together.” Lucas answered. “I stay with my Dad sometimes. And I see my little brothers. Dad’s new wife is okay. She’s nice to me.”

“Brooke, you are lucky to have a Dad. And he has always been good to you. That won’t change. He loves you. Maybe he just wants to be there for you. That’s why he wants you to spend time at his house.” Liam added.

“I don’t think my Mom liked the idea. But I guess I need to go there.”

Larry listened. Images of people sharing food in that story and now brownies and potato chips. He had even more to think about. Then he recalled a simple statement the angel made to some guy named Paul who was going to prison. “Don’t be afraid.” Larry thought to himself “Maybe there is something to this stuff they do. I just don’t know.”

The lunch bell rang and the group gathered the trash and headed back to their classrooms.



## Letting your light shine

Let the light of God’s love shine through you so that others may get to know Jesus. A simple invitation, a kind word or a helping hand can become a God sighting.

Remember, the only God some people may ever know is the one they see reflected in you.

*"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God, I will strengthen you, I will help you..."*

ISAIAH 41:10

## FAMILY EVENTS

Johnny Awards are given to our children when they show kindness and understanding to others, or when they help someone in need. Anyone can nominate someone for a Johnny Award. You can see the award on our home page.

FEBRUARY 11 The Apostles Creed Article 1

FEBRUARY 14 7PM Ash Wednesday service

MARCH 29 7PM Good Friday service

MARCH 31 EASTER

# Family Bible Time

## “The Apostles Creed”

### INTRODUCTION

Martin Luther wrote the Small Catechism as a basic Christian instruction for families with children. He identified three doctrines that every family should know- The Ten Commandments, The Apostle’s Creed and the Lord’s Prayer. The Ten Commandments tell us how God wants us to live our lives. A creed is a statement of belief. The Apostles Creed explains who God is and what He does for us. There are three articles to the Creed.

The first article, God the Father, explains creation. The second article God the Son gives us redemption. The third article, God the Holy Spirit provides sanctification. There is one God and one faith, but three persons.

In Article One of the Apostle’s Creed we identify God as the “Father Almighty” who is also our creator. We believe that God has created everything that exists from the ants on the ground to our families and friends; every thing we see around us and every gift that we have to give others. God not only created us, He cares for us and provides for us. We believe that He will provide family, food and shelter, and protect us from danger. He has given us every gift and every ability that we have- Our Blessings.

But as people we mess up- a lot. So why would God provide for us? He loves us. God is our heavenly Father. He created us. He cares for us. We should give Him thanks and praise always.

### Our Bible Story

Genesis 1:1- 2:7

*I believe in God the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.*

The world we know today did not always exist. A very long time ago there was nothing but darkness as if it was midnight on a starless night. Time passed but nothing grew. There was no life. There was no sun, no moon, no rain, no people, no fruits or vegetables or cows and sheep... But there was God.

God looked around. All He saw was a darkness. There were no joyful noises, there were no beginnings of life springing from the darkness. God thought this darkness all the time is not good. Something needs to change.

God planned for something beautiful- a world where there was light, rays of hope beaming through darkness. God called the light “Day”. The darkness He called “Night”. There was morning and evening.

God looked around Him. He could see that more work was needed. There was water everywhere. God created sky which He called “Heaven”. Under heaven were the waters. This is good, God thought, but I am not quite finished.



Two days had passed. God saw that even more was needed. Next God separated the waters into Seas. There appeared dry land between the seas. God called the dry land “Earth”.



## Breaking News

*God is our heavenly Father.*

*God created the world and everything in it from the smallest fish to the largest animals. Everything belongs to God.*

### What’s Important?

- *God planned for a beautiful world and created us to take care of it.*
- *God provides us with everything we need because He loves us*
- *Count your blessings- “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father” (James 1:17)*
- *“Be doers of the word and not hearers only” (James 1:22)*

# Family Bible Time Con't

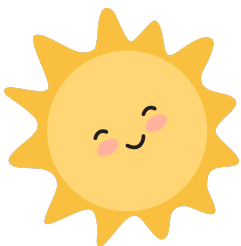
The earth is good. It must produce beautiful plants and trees. God covered the land with plants and trees. Grass grew, vegetables and flowers blossomed and trees had beautiful leaves to provide shade from the sun.



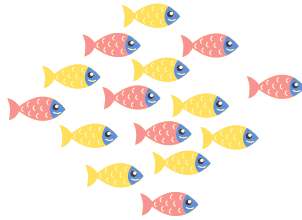
God saw that all these plants needed light. He set lights in the sky to separate day and night. The lights became signs for changes in the seasons.



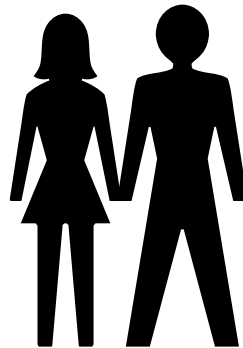
God made two great lights. The brightest light brought the day, and the lesser light appeared at night. Four days have passed. It is good, thought God. But there is no one to enjoy these plants and trees.



The world needed creatures. God created birds and fish and all sorts of animals that walked on the land and swam in the sea. Some were big and some were very small. They made all kinds of joyful noises. All of these creatures enjoyed all that God had made. They feasted on the vegetation and made homes in the trees and under the water.



God was pleased with all the creatures he made. But He saw something was still missing. "I need someone to care for all I created." God thought. On the sixth day God created a man in His own image. This man was to be God's caretaker for all of His creatures and creation. Man would be able to enjoy all the beautiful things God made. God called the man Adam. Then God created another person. He called her Eve. Together Adam and Eve were to care for God's world.



## Prayer

Heavenly Father,  
Thank you for your promise  
Help us when we face  
challenges.  
Guide our thoughts, words  
and actions so we do not  
harm others.  
Help us to keep your  
commandments. Amen.

*THIS LITTLE LIGHT  
OF MINE, I'M GONNA  
LET IT SHINE...*

*LET IT SHINE ALL  
THE TIME,  
LET IT SHINE ...  
HALLEJULAH*

TRADITIONAL GOSPEL SONG,  
WRITER UNKNOWN  
C.1925

# Apple Butter Hill Mission Team

## ACTIVITY Introduction to Apostle's Creed

When I think of God I imagine \_\_\_\_\_

Three words I would use to describe God are

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## ACTIVITY God the Creator

### Supplies : Bible

Make a creation collage showing all the things that God has made for us .We believe that God is the Creator of all things.

When you finish your collage using your Bible, read Genesis 1 and write down what God created on each day. Did you miss anything in your collage?

How do you take care of God's creation?

## ACTIVITY More About God, the Father Almighty

Galatians 4: 4-7 Who is God a Father to?

John 1:12 How do we become part of God's family?

Jeremiah 32:17-19 Why do we bring all our fears to God, the Father?

## ACTIVITY Ash Wednesday & Valentine's Day

Ash Wednesday starts Lent, a season to think about how much God loves us. This year Ash Wednesday is also Valentine's Day. Draw a picture to show how these days remind us of God's love.

## ACTIVITY Getting to Know the Bible

Supplies:

A Bible

Paul sailed to Rome. Why was he going to Rome? (Acts 27: 1-2)\_\_\_\_\_

What is the name of the island where Paul and his ship mates landed? (Acts 28:1)

\_\_\_\_\_

What prophet did Paul quote when he arrived in Rome? ( Acts 28: 23-25)

\_\_\_\_\_

Where do you find the story of creation?

Where do you find the Ten Commandments in the Bible?

Where can you find the Apostle's Creed?

What is the Small Catechism?

Why was the small catechism created?

Who wrote the Small Catechism explanations?

How many letters did Paul write?

Where can you find Paul's letters?

## About the ABH Mission Team

The Apple Butter Hill Mission Team are the children of our church.

Our key mission is to bring God's love to those around us.

We use our gifts of the spirit- love, kindness, goodness and joy to be light for others.

We share God's Good News of Jesus.

We invite everyone to join our team and God's mission to love and bless His world.

ABH Editor: Peli Cann  
Contributor: Johnny Giraffe  
Contributor: Grace Butter-Fly

*Stick your neck out for Christ  
Do God things...every day*

# Apple Butter Hill Mission Team

Draw a picture to help you remember that God, the Father loves you



## Count Your Blessings

Make a list of the blessings you have received  
Draw a picture of one of them here

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you God for helping us to let our light shine