#### **Fugate's Fork News**

By Adna Mae Hudson Noble



We hope y'all had a blessed Christmas and we pray you have a Happy New Year in 2026!

From each of us, we'd like to thank all of you for all the calls, cards, and gifts during Christmas, too numerous for me to mention, but may God bless y'all for every thoughtful word/deed.

Happy 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday to my baby sister, Donna Sue Hudson Combs, on January 4, (1966)! I can't believe it! Donna was born at Home Place Clinic at Ary, Kentucky, but was raised on Fugates Fork. Donna was Homecoming Queen when she was a Junior at Breathitt High School in 1983, then graduated in May or June 1984. She didn't waste any time leaving Fugates Fork – she got married on July 10, to Chester Gary Combs (b. 9-17-63) and moved to Rowdy, Ky. She and 'Chet' had two children; Jacqueline Danielle Combs (b. 2-16-85 d.6-22-90) and David Chase Combs (b. 3-9-88). She's presently a Pharmacy Technician at ARH In-Patient Pharmacy in Hazard, Kentucky, and lives on Fugates

When my sisters and I were growing up on the 'holler', we'd say if we ever left it, we'd never come back, but guess what? Donna lives there now and I don't live far away at Flintville/Lost Creek! HA! You can take the girl out of the country, but you can't take the country out of the girl! I wouldn't live anywhere else now. I've always heard that you want to come back home to spend your last days and die. May God continue to bless you, sis. We love you.

Happy 81st Birthday (1945) on January 9 also to Louverna 'Lou' Campbell Bush who was formerly of Fugates Fork, but now lives in Goshen, Indiana, the daughter of Jesse and Carrie (Fugate) Campbell. Lou married Raymond Bush, left for Chicago, Illinois, and never came back! HA!

Beginning 2026, let's try to remember the Bible verse, Isaiah 43: 18, "Do not remember the past events; pay no attention to things of old." Our Daily Bread states, "Instead of dwelling on failures or regrets, let's trust that God has 'scrubbed' our past sins, regrets, and shame and through Jesus sacrifice (on the cross) 'remembers our sins no more. He wasn't just erasing the past, but 'making a way' to a future filled with hope and purpose. God propels us toward the future He's preparing." We love y'all, but 'til we meet again, may

### Cookin' with Kathy Kathy Bays Alberts

Here's a great recipe to start the new year of 2026, with **Brown Sugar Dumplings**Makes: 12 servings

Ingredients:1 cup brown sugar, 2 cups hot water, 2 tablespoons butter, 1/2 cup nuts or raisins, 1/2 cup sugar, 1 cup flour, 2 teaspoons baking powder, 1 teaspoon vanilla, 1/2 teaspoon water or milk Equipment: Saucepan. Spoon, Mixing bowl, 9 x 13-inch

pan

- 1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
- 2. In saucepan, mix brown sugar, hot water, and butter. Bring to a boil. Stir in nuts.
- 3. In bowl, mix sugar, flower, and baking powder, until crumbly. Add vanilla and water, stirring until smooth.
- 4. Pour hot syrup into 9 x 13 inch pan. Drop butter by spoonfuls onto syrup.
- 5. Bake 30 to 40 minutes.
- 6. Before serving, break into small pieces. Serve with ice cream or whipped cream.

# Jeff Allen for PVA



Hi, I am currently serving as PVA in Breathitt County. I was appointed by Gov. Andy Beshear on August 1, 2025. Since that appointment, I've been able to hire a full staff who have been doing an excellent job.

We would appreciate the opportunity to continue serving you.

So, if you're not committed to someone else, I'd surely appreciate your vote.

Respectfully, Jeff Douglas Allen

Paid for by the candidate

#### A Wretch Saved By Grace

## Was the Writing on the Wall what Jesus also wrote on the ground

Was the writing on the wall from "fingers of a man's hand" in Daniel chapter five the same as what Jesus "with His finger, wrote on the ground" in John chapter eight? There are some amazing similarities as well as stark contrasts that surely make it seem highly likely. Please take it all this to the Lord in prayer.

Daniel five opens with King Belshazzar (Nebuchadnezzar's heir to the throne) feeding a multitude of his lords, and serving wine in golden vessels "that were taken out of the temple of the house of God" to his princes, wives, and concubines. Likewise, John eight opens with Jesus sitting down to spiritually feed a multitude of people; however, they were inside the temple. Consider also that the kingdom of God is within you; you are the temple. Daniel 5:4 tells us that Belshazzar and his people were praising the gods of gold, silver, brass, iron, wood, and stone. This clearly demonstrates idolatry, i.e. adultery. In the Old Testament, the Hebrew word for adultery is naap, which--according to Strong's Concordance--means figuratively, idolatrous worship. (See Jeremiah 3:9 for another example of this usage.) Whereas Daniel five demonstrates rampant adultery through idolatry, there's an accusation of an adulterous woman brought to Jesus by the scribes and Pharisees in John eight, saying she was caught in the very act.

Then Daniel 5:5 and 24 show fingers of a man's hand, part of a hand coming forth to write a message on the wall. John 8:6 shows Jesus writing with His finger on the ground, silently (without any voice) just as in the Old Testament. What's most interesting is the message on the wall to Belshazzar, who ultimately required Daniel to interpret the words: "MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN." More on this to come. Notice how in Daniel 5:22-23 Daniel tells Belshazzar that his heart has not been humbled and he's lifted himself up against the Lord of heaven. Conversely, notice how in John 8:9 the accusers--convicted by their consciences-- exited the scene, and it's Jesus who lifts Himself up in verses seven and 10--the only, rightful One to do so.

Daniel (called Belteshazzar by Nebuchadnezzar) was sent to Belshazzar to interpret the writing. (Incidentally, Belteshazzar--per Strong's--means "lord of the straitened's treasure." Belshazzar means "Bel protect the king.") Daniel (the Christ forerunner figure) reminds Belshazzar how, when his father wouldn't give glory to the most High (his heart was elevated and his mind was hardened with pride against God) that his kingdom was taken and he was brought low to know that God rules "in the kingdom of men." He told him though he knew all this, he (Belshazzar) had still chosen his own way over God's and now judgment had come. John 8:9 tells us they who "heard" went out. The Greek word for heard here is akouo, meaning to largely understand, perceive, or hearken. If Jesus was writing the words that were written on the wall in Daniel, these scribes and Pharisees would surely understand and feel the gravity at hand. They'd have well known this story, and those who got it, saw themselves in it. God had been long-suffering then and He was giving a final warning for some through Jesus' writing on the ground at this much later time, and He still is today.

Mene means: "God has numbered [graded and recorded] your kingdom and it is finished [set], per verse 26. Tekel means: "You are weighed in the balances and have been found wanting" [come up short] per verse 27. Upharsin is also Peres which means: "Your kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians." Peres and Persians are related words meaning to be divided, not whole (as one's kingdom within, in 1 Thessalonians 5:23: "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Lastly, we see Jesus (in John eight) was teaching in the morning. His word and continued lessons were given in the "light of day." He even said in John 8:12 ..."I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." In Daniel 5:5 the writing was lit by a "candlestick" because they were in darkness. The queen in verse 11, refers to Daniel as being with "light" and understanding. When addressing Daniel, Belshazzar says, in part, "I have even heard of thee, that the spirit of the gods is in thee, and that light and understanding and excellent wisdom is found in thee." Daniel 5:14 Ultimately, that "night" in verse 30, Belshazzar is slain.

Lord, help us to not just be hearers of your word, but doers of it. Help us to walk in spirit and truth--loving you above all and forgiving and loving others as ourselves. Every day is a new day to choose the rightful Master. In 1 Thessalonians chapter five, Paul tells them they don't need him to write of the "times and seasons" because it was understood (by those with eyes and hears to see and hear) that they were living in the last days, after Jesus' death, resurrection, and ascension. Each person's "end" on earth comes as a thief in the night, at which time, time is no more for him/her. This is the day the Lord has made--rejoice and choose wisely, for every day is someone's last day on this side.

## Have a Safe and Happy New Year!

#### Walk on Water

by James David Fugate

The deep green water below me warned me not to jump; all the while, my dorm mates beckoned me to take the plunge. Many others were doing so to beat the heat under the hot Georgia sun. We'd made the short trip from my college campus to an abandoned rock quarry which had long ago partially filled with water, the below distance of which varied along the quarry's perimeter rim. Not only did the site contain deep water, it was also filled with eerie tales of unrecovered bodies tangled up in abandoned equipment lying in the quarry's creepy depths, yarns spun by locals who would surely know....or not.

I'd jumped from considerable heights before into waters of which I was familiar, but nothing close to the distance between the quarry's rocky rim perch on which I was standing, which was the highest available from which to jump, and the unnatural water below, waters of which I was most unfamiliar. After a quick prayer, exercising my perceived faith, I jumped into the abyss, smacking the water below thinking I'd surely broken more than the water's surface. It was likely the most irrational decision I'd made in my 19 young years; unfortunately, not the last one.

Some might say I'd taken a leap of faith, or had acted in blind faith, as in the more irrational I was, the more heroic my faith. Some say that true faith is void of reason and perception, but the Bible doesn't teach that. My irrational action in no way demonstrated faith, as it had no basis, no foundation whatsoever. True faith is built on a foundation of reason and perception, beginning with "knowing," having received knowledge through sound deduction and/or through the senses of sight, smell, taste, touch, or sound.

After Gabriel had visited Zechariah in the temple while the aged priest was fulfilling his duties as chosen by lot, telling Zechariah that he and his aged wife would have a son and were to name him John, Zechariah asked the angel, "How will I know this for certain? For I am an old man and my wife is advanced in years." (Luke 1:18b NASB) The critical word here is "know," as in "how can I be sure that what you are saying is for real?" Keep in mind Zechariah is not just any man, he's a priest, and he's in the temple serving God, having gotten the opportunity by winning the priestly lottery.

The Bible doesn't say, but I imagine there was silence, crickets, for a moment or two before Gabriel answered. Zechariah's question must've flabbergasted him, if angels can be flabbergasted, but then he answered. "I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news..." (Luke 1:19b NASB) Not having previously given his name, Gabriel now lets Zechariah know he's not talking to just any angel, as if that should matter, as in "Do you know who you're talking to, you know, the same one who visited Daniel?" Stricken mute at that point, the message to Zechariah was that he should've known that any message delivered by an angel needed no further validation.

Luke prefaces his gospel with the importance of establishing faith upon a reasonable, perceptive foundation, stating that many had already given accounts of Jesus, eyewitness accounts from those who were with Him. Luke tells Theophilus, the man to whom he's writing, that he's carefully investigated everything from the very beginning and has decided to write an orderly account. For what reason is Luke going to such lengths? "...so that you may know the exact truth about the things you have been taught." (Luke 1:4 NASB) Notice the critical word "know."

John says basically the same thing in his gospel, "but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name." (John 20:31 NASB) And then Peter confirms, "For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty." (2 Peter 1:16 NASB)

We see in these verses the importance of knowledge, gained either by reason or perception, and its necessity in believing, because believing anything for no reason whatsoever is irrational which could lead a person to believe anything. So is establishing a valid data base and believing what we have learned to be true, enough to establish faith? Certainly not, for the devil and his demons know and believe, and yet don't have faith; nonetheless, you must know what it is you believe before you can demonstrate faith. After all, knowledge gained by reason or perception is the foundation on which faith is built. After knowing and assenting to what we know to be true, we must commit to it, which will prompt us to act. That is faith, and it is through this faith that we are saved by God's grace.

So while God asks us to believe things that have already happened, He also calls us to believe things we've never seen, things we could never prove or understand by reason or perception, such as heaven. We've never seen heaven, but we are told that our loved ones are there. In that regard "Faith is the substance of those things hoped for, the evidence of which is unseen." Is one irrational for believing? No, such faith is not a blind faith, nor does one need to take a leap of faith to believe it. Such faith rests on the foundation of reason and perception, deducing that if what God has already done is the same as what He said He would do, then I can believe He will do what He said He will do.

Faith doesn't ask "Can I be sure of this?" but it can ask, "How can this be...?" as asked by Mary after Gabriel had told her she would be delivering Jesus.

Faith does not only believe that God exists; it's believing what He's told us and committing to that belief.