

Salem Associational Women’s Mission Group Meeting

On Tue., April 19, there will be a quarterly meeting for the Salem Associational Women’s Mission Group. The meeting will take place at 7 p.m. at Zion Grove Baptist Church. The meeting will provide an update on the mission in Ethiopia.

Meade Circuit Court Clerk launches campaign to grow Organ Donor Registry

Meade Circuit Court Clerk has committed to launching a local initiative to grow the Organ Donor Registry to save lives. Today, over 1000 Kentucky children and adults are on the waiting list for an organ transplant and over 100,000 nationally are in need. Each day, tragically, 20 Americans die waiting for their lifesaving organ. “We can all take a step to help those on the waiting list simply by registering as an organ donor. It takes less than a minute, and everyone is welcome. There are no age or health requirements to register as a donor. Children and adults are waiting all of our second chance at life and need us to take this step,” explains Ellen Lindsey. Check 5 to Save Lives is an initiative outlined by Donate Life Kentucky to engage volunteers to shout this mission from the rooftops in all areas of the state. It empowers people to impact their own circle of influence and have fun along the way. Volunteers can choose how to complete the five steps. The five

steps include sharing with others your commitment to organ donation, encouraging people to register as a donor, educating the community about donation, and creating a fundraiser to help the statewide mission. “We are honored to work with dedicated people who love this mission and want to share it with others. They are going above and beyond in supporting organ and tissue donation, and we are so grateful for their volunteerism and generous support. Their efforts will save lives,” shares Shelley Snyder, Executive Director of Donate Life Kentucky. Individuals and groups across Kentucky are accomplishing community projects, school and media outreach, civic club involvement, and other promotions to increase donation education, address myths and grow the organ donor registry. Everyone can register as an organ donor online at www.registerme.org or through the health app in your iPhone or while obtaining your driver’s license or RealID.



Izzy Frazier

Come in and see me!

I will meet you at the door with a smiling face and a wagging tail. Ohhh and don't forget the TREAT!

the Meade County

Messenger

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The Tragedy and the Glory

A story of St. Mary’s and St. Theresa’s Church

GERRY FISCHER

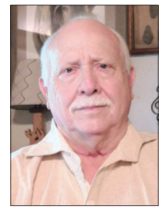
Part 1

My friends, Cheryl and Mike Hurley, told me a remarkable story of an enslaved woman, buried at old St. Theresa’s church, who’s grandson became the first enslaved person to become a Catholic Priest in the United States of America. Peggy Greenwell, some years before, told me a little-known story about a most unusual St. Mary’s parishioner, buried in the graveyard. These three stories of Matilda Hurd, her grandson, Augustine Tolton, and Katherine Rhodes are bittersweet but heartwarming and glorious, so much so that Augustine is now on the road to becoming a Saint. All were born into slavery, Baptized Catholic, and are buried in consecrated Churchyards in St. Theresa’s, St Mary’s, in Meade County, Kentucky and in Quincy, Illinois at St. Peter. Matilda Hurd was born in 1806, dying in 1836. She was enslaved on the farm of John Henry Manning of Rhodelia, Kentucky, who owned 17 slaves. She later married an enslaved man and gave birth to six children: Charles, Anne, Sicilia, Sicilia Ellen, and Martha Jane, mother of Father Augustine John

Tolton, who himself was born into slavery. In Payneville, Kentucky, Katherine Rhodes was also born into slavery and was fortunate not to have her life cut short in the same way Lucy Hamilton suffered. Lucy was hanged in 1848 for stabbing and killing her rapist, the teenage son of William Hamilton, for which she was hanged and her owner reimbursed for her value and her baby was later auctioned at the Meade County Courthouse. All perhaps but the Hamilton girl are buried in consecrated Churchyards, and lived into the 1900’s, one dying in 1913; the other in 1950. Matilda Hurd is buried in St. Theresa’s, and Katherine Rhodes, is buried in St. Mary’s, both in Kentucky, but the most famous, a grandson of Matilda, is buried in Illinois. His tombstone dwarfs that of Matilda, whose stone is much larger than Katherine Rhodes, but the fact they have chiseled stones at all is testimony for how highly regarded they were. Other than the graves of Jack and Pete, slaves of Dr. Benedict Wathen, who are buried together with Wathen in Mt. Marino Cemetery in Irvington, Kentucky, these are the only slave graves I have seen with anything other than unadorned field stones. When John Henry

Manning died, Susan Manning inherited as part of her dowry, a batch of slaves that included Martha Jane. Martha later married Peter Tolton who was bought at an auction by the Hager family, whose property bordered the Elliott’s, in Ralls County, Missouri. Stephen Elliott, Susan’s betrothed, wed at the Meade County Manning Plantation, in 1849, and later they resided in Brush Creek, Missouri. There John Tolton and Martha Jane were allowed to marry, and two years later, Martha bore a son on April 1st, 1854, named Augustine John Tolton. In 1859, Martha gave birth to Augustine’s sister, Anne. Both children were baptized by Father John O’Sullivan, in St. Peter’s Church in northeast Missouri. The Civil War came to Missouri in 1861, and some of the Tolton’s fought for the Union, although slaves were forbidden by law to do so. In 1862, Martha ran away with her children to Quincy, Illinois, in a harrowing escape, where she became part of a community of folks who

broke away from slavery. The Elliott’s freed Martha and her children, and Susan Elliott became Augustine’s godmother. The children and Martha worked for a while in a tobacco factory and attended St. Boniface School. They were threatened by parishioners, causing Father Herman Schaefermeyer to remove them from the church roles; however, Father Peter McGirr, a hardheaded strong-willed Irishman who had suffered from prejudice in his own country, encouraged them to join his parish, St. Lawrence O’Toole. McGirr ignored threats from his own parishioners, and became Augustine’s most important mentor. Tolton worked as a janitor at St. Lawrence that had been renamed St. Peter, when he received a calling to the priesthood. Father McGirr arranged for his tutoring for the priesthood at St. Francis Solanus College in Quincy, and looked for a seminary, but Tolton was denied because of his race. (See what God had in store for John, next week.)



Gerry Fischer is the proud husband of Fran, father of two, retired teacher, author, and storyteller. Fran and Gerry have resided in Meade County for more than 20 years.

the Meade County

Messenger

138 Broadway, Suite A, Brandenburg, KY, 40108

Do you know something we don't know?

We have an **Anonymous News Tip Box!**

Dear Bud's Pfeiffer Jewelers,

I am coming to visit you at

109.5 N Elm St, Corydon, IN 47112

April 15th & April 16th

See you then!

The Easter Bunny

Happy Easter



Wishing you and yours a very Happy Easter.

Sandra Bruington, Agent

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Harrison County Hospital Announces New SANE Program


With the support of Leadership Harrison County, Harrison County Hospital and the Harrison County Hospital Emergency Department are pleased to bring the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) program to the community.

Our Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners have undergone extensive training and connect sexual assault and domestic violence victims with medical/forensic exams, law enforcement and advocates.


A victim in need of assistance from a SANE nurse should come to the Emergency Department at Harrison County Hospital. If a victim is in a life threatening situation, they should call 911 immediately.

812-738-4251

www.hchin.org




SANE Nurses (not all pictured)



Harrison County Hospital
Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner

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