

Faith and Funnies

A newsletter from Faithful Friends KY



March, Vol. 1



Winds of March

Winds of March, we welcome you.
There is much for you to do.
Work and play and blow all day,
Blow the winter cold away.



This Month in History

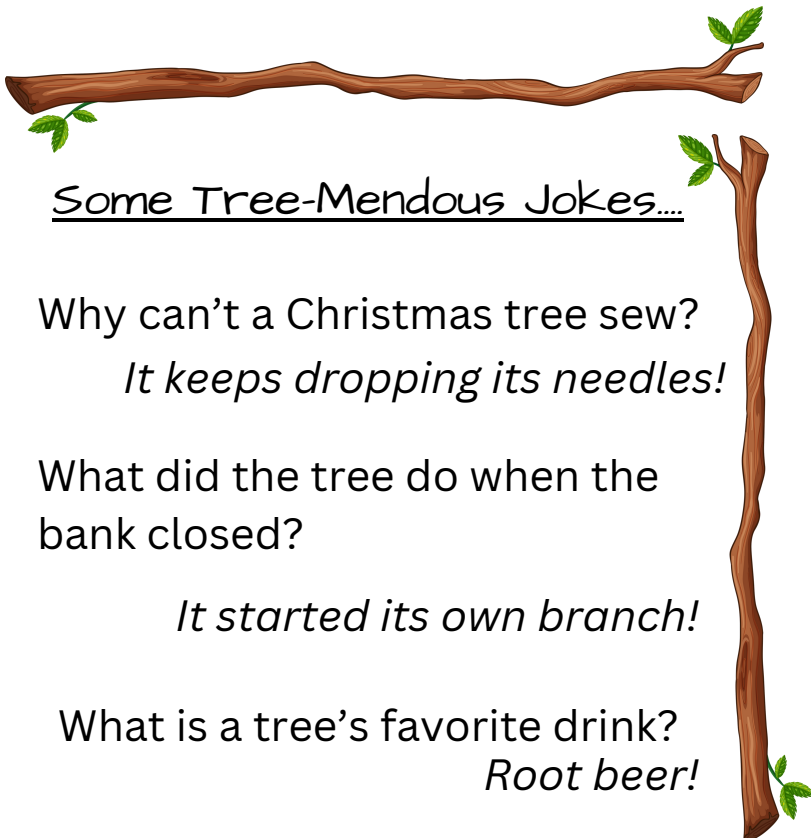
March 4, 1933 - Newly elected President Franklin D. Roosevelt took office and delivered his first inaugural address attempting to restore public confidence during the Great Depression, stating, "Let me assert my firm belief that the only thing we have to fear is fear itself..."

Some Tree-Mendous Jokes...

Why can't a Christmas tree sew?
It keeps dropping its needles!

What did the tree do when the bank closed?
It started its own branch!

What is a tree's favorite drink?
Root beer!



Tree of Life

written by Marla Carter

March definitely came raging in like a lion this year with storms that produced tornados, hail, strong winds, and left damage across many states. Locally, with winds gusting up to 50 mph for hours, I am surprised the damage wasn't worse than it was.

I spent much of the day looking out my back windows, watching the trees in my backyard as they swayed and bent in the wild winds. We've been through a lot of storms since we've lived in this house. I've seen those trees bend with the winds before, but never quite like this. I was amazed at how far the trees could bend without breaking. Tall trees, reaching up to the sky, anchored to the ground below by unseen roots, not in concrete, but in soil. In fact, I read that most trees' roots systems are only 6-12 inches below the surface because that's where there is an abundance of oxygen, moisture, and nutrients.

The Bible has a lot to say about trees. Trees bookend the story of man's relationship with God--Eden's Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil and the Tree of Life in heaven. Sandwiched in the middle, bridging the gap, is the tree on which Jesus died. I heard once that, other than God and people, trees are the most mentioned living thing in the Bible. That should come as no surprise since God often uses things in nature to teach us about Himself, and trees are very large visual aid!

One of my favorite passages about trees is Jeremiah 17:7-8: "Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream,

Continued on page 3...

and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit.”

Psalm 1 tells us nearly the same thing but explains why a man who trusts in the Lord is like a tree planted by water. "Blessed in the one.....whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night." Meditating on God's Word, delighting in His Word--feeding our hearts and minds like nutrients and water for the roots of a tree.

Meditating means more than a quick "Bible verse of the day." I can't expect my roots to spread and grow if I only glance at God's Word, walk away, and not give it another thought all day. I need to turn it over in my mind, ponder it, think on it, and give my roots time to grow. I also need to make space for God's Word to feed my roots. Just as a big pile of mulch around the base of a tree blocks out the sunlight and water from the tree's roots, so does busyness and noise crowd out the space for God's Word in my heart.

We did in fact lose a tree in the recent storms; I watched as it fell to the ground. Even a fallen tree has lessons for us too. "For there is hope for a tree, if it be cut down, that it will sprout again, and that its shoots will not cease." (Job 14:7) "There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit." (Isaiah 11:1) Jesus was that shoot. Though it appeared that the family tree from which our Savior was to come had been cut down, a baby was born in Bethlehem to a family from the house of David, son of Jesse--a baby who would give life to all. Jesus Christ, who is Himself a Tree of Life.

Watching the Trees

G V H F T P H L L Y G B H G S M V C N O
 C E R T Z E V R H P B S P Q Z N W J V J
 W S F E H T J I I Q V H D F Y L X X V A
 G K O G X G M Y X B C A B C D B H Q Q J
 V I Q Y L A I M M H D V L X J R B G F A
 T T K F A D U L Y C A L O Y J A K J P U
 K O K Z G U Q M N H S G E G A N A P H U
 G I X E W A I K W U H C L A A C V G K B
 T M Y A W S U Q V I S K Y M V H A Z U T
 H T K J Q J Z S L S A J J V K E N D J W
 V L N W K O Q E Z W W J X T U S S C X O
 W I D I M D R M C S T O O R P Z H J D O
 K M N N L A A R L E F O A E B H Q E O C
 F O H D C P Y I M L R B K O R R K Q O Z
 D F A B L L R U O P I A V A I C F V W Q
 Y K A E R B X E U C A R B E R Y E A G S
 W M P B R R N U G D N K I Q M F I P O P
 O S Y D N B J B S B F S A Y Y X T I D E
 S Z I I H Q K Y W B R E T A W Q L B Y B
 N H B K A K V X A Z N R K Y U S R S M C

WIND
 BREAK
 BUDS
 MAPLE
 SOIL
 BARK

SWAY
 BRANCHES
 DOGWOOD
 ASH
 SUNLIGHT

UPROOT
 LEAVES
 OAK
 ROOTS
 WATER

