

Offering #47, April 16, 2021. We are Easter people, we are people of hope. Our great commission is to love one another. The pandemic closes in on us again. Contemplate several codes to live by from the New York Times. Prayerfully read “Death is nothing at all”. Appreciate the simplicity of the “Aha” philosophy of Charles Schultz and be energized by the Crazy County Gardener. Looking for comfort food? Grilled cheese with a twist.

This offering presents some sage advice from people at the end of their lives that might help us navigate through our life. Every day we have 20,000 waking moments. How we use them is entirely up to us. For me, I believe God puts a unique longing in our hearts with a special purpose.

One day when my 87 year old mother was dying, we had many chats, but this one is a moment I will never forget. I asked her, “What do you think your purpose here on earth was?” In what seemed less than a heartbeat, she looked at me straight in the eyes, she said, “to make the world a more beautiful place wherever I lived.” followed by, “I think I have done a good job, I can go now”. A few days later my mother peacefully died.

It is a rare gift that we discover our purpose, feel we know what it is, and accomplish it without being in the headlines of the newspaper. At 87, my mother who was a gifted artist and landscaper used all these skills to make our homes and properties beautiful. She found her nirvana.

Fill your 20,000 waking moments each day – fill them with laughter. Make them good ones, loving ones, forgiving ones, forgive each other, and forgive yourself.

With blessings and affection, Deacon Kate Ann

The fact that I can plant a seed and it becomes a flower, share a bit of knowledge and that becomes another’s, smile at someone and receive a smile, are my continual spiritual exercises.

Leo Buscaglia

Death is a challenge. It tells us not to waste time...It tells us to tell each other right now that we LOVE each other.

The following inspirations were found in the New York Times article April 10, 2021 'To Leave the World a Bit Better,' and Other Codes to Live By. The author asked readers what philosophies they live by. Their inspirations include Emerson, deceased family members, a sign at a boat dock and a pet.

"I wish I had been more kind."

"1-2-1-2 used to simply be a mantra while I'm running put 1 foot in front of the other. It kept my mind moving to the next step in covid times my little family through one day at a time in small increments 1-2-1-2 has become a battle song forward."

"Always behave as if someone is watching "

Ralph Waldo Emerson " To leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch or redeemed social condition; to know one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded. "

I recall seeing a small rectangular sign at the end of the dock declaring "your wake defines you" no matter what I am doing I always pay attention to the impact my choices have on others .

A simple code "what if everyone did" every little action can be judged by that credo: from leaving litter, to one's behaviour driving a car, to kindness or rudeness.

"Create more consume less."

**"Our family code:
be reasonable
be kind
be funny"**

"Be the person your dog thinks you are."

May this provide comfort to you.

Death is nothing at all.

I have only slipped away into the next room.

I am I, and you are you.

Whatever we were to each other that we still are.

Call me by my old familiar name,

speak to me in the easy way which you always used.

Put no difference in your tone,

wear no forced air of solemnity or sorrow.

Laugh as we always laughed

at the little jokes we enjoyed together.

Play, smile, think of me, pray for me.

Let my name be ever

the household word that it always was,

let it be spoken without effort,

without the trace of a shadow on it.

Life means all that it is ever meant.

It is the same as it ever was;

there is unbroken continuity

Why should I be out of mind because I am out of sight?

I am waiting for you, for an interval,

somewhere very near, just around the corner.

All is well.

Henry Scott Holland,

Canon of St. Paul's Cathedral London 1900

“Fear not” or “Be not afraid”, appears in the Bible 365 times.

“Aha” Moments

**The philosophy of Charles Schultz
(Creator of Peanuts Comic Strip)**

You don't have to actually answer the questions. Just ponder on them just read the email straight through and you'll get the point.

- 1. Name the five wealthiest people in the world.**
- 2. Name the last five Heisman Trophy winners.**
- 3. Name the last five winners of the Miss America pageant.**
- 4. Name the 10 people who have won the Nobel or Pulitzer Prizes.**
- 5. Name the last half dozen Academy Award winners for best actor and actress.**

How did you do?

**The point is none of us remember
the headlines of yesterday.
These are no second rate achievers
they are the best in their fields.
But the applause dies, awards tarnish
achievements are forgotten,
accolades and certificates are buried with their owners.**

Here's another quiz. See how you do!

- 1. List to teachers you needed on your journey through school.**
- 2. Name three friends who have helped you through a difficult time**
- 3. Name five people who have taught you something worthwhile.**
- 4. Think of a few people who made you feel appreciated, special.**
- 5. Think of five people you enjoy spending time with**

Easier?

The lesson, the people who make a difference in your life are not the ones with the most credentials, the most money or has the most awards. They simply are the ones who cared the most

Be yourself . Everyone else is taken!

**Hints of fiddlehead and asparagus coming soon!
Learn an easy way to germinate seeds..**

This is amazing, I know it worked for even me! KA

With temperatures so warm I hopped on my e-bike and checked for fiddleheads and for asparagus in the ditch along the side of the road. They are usually up by Mother's day. But again, keep looking. You could miss the season for these two vegetables. They come up fast, especially fiddleheads. My usual spot for asparagus is always disguised by the local farmers fence and lots of brush. Keep looking!

If you want to germinate some seeds in a couple of weeks, here is an experiment to try. Buy a butternut squash at the grocery store. Cut the squash just above the ball where the neck starts. Don't discard the bottom of the squash with the seeds in it. Release the seeds with a fork and leave them in the ball shaped part of the squash and top with dirt, water and observe. I have successfully germinated seeds in butternut squash this way.

If you would like to test for germination of seeds of an acorn squash another way, here is an experiment: take seeds and place them in a wet paper towel and place in a small plastic bag to keep them moist. Germination only takes 4 or 5 days with this method. Plant when the weather is right. Share with your friends. It equates to the sermon on the mount.

Last week, I dug up pails of allium (like chives) and delivered them to my neighbours. In case the neighbours said no thanks, I dropped them off with a note. They didn't come back.

There are no covid bugs in the great outdoors. By the way, the rhubarb is an inch high. I should be able to report next week that the peas are up. Enjoy your week, please be safe and God Bless!

The Crazy County Gardener

My Comfort Food, GRILLED CHEESE

When we travelled when I was young often we were driving over the lunch hour. The rule for my brothers and me “grilled cheese sandwiches and tomato soup “ My go to for comfort food remains a grilled cheese sandwich on white bread with Campbells canned tomato soup made with milk. So many memories, Kate Ann

Some variations on the traditional.

Raisin Bread Cooked sliced apple Blue cheese *Yummy	Dark Rye Bread Sliced pear Brie Cheese * Yummy	White Bread Havarti Cheese Crisp bacon
Rye bread Muenster cheese Caramelized onion Blue cheese	Garlic Bread Monterey Jack cheese Thinly sliced ham	Grilled cheese with Crusts cut off and sandwich cut in thin strips. Dip in ketchup

Cheese: Swiss, gouda, oka, mozzarella, havarti, blue, old cheddar, medium and new cheddar, gruyere.

Bread: raisin, pumpernickel, rye, whole wheat, sourdough, white.

Vegetables: avocado slices, caramelized onion, spinach, peppers mushrooms, sliced tomatoes.

Fruit: sliced apples, pears, peaches, kiwi, dried cranberries, raisins.

Sauces: red pepper jelly, chili sauce, pesto, wing sauce, hot sauce.

Meats: crisp bacon, thinly sliced steak, chicken, cooked sausage.

Weird stuff: crushed nachos or crushed potato chips – 2 T, then cheese.