



The Buzz

December 7, 2023

WALK WITH GOD—TALK WITH GOD

Joseph Scriven Walked With God

"There is a friend who sticks closer than a brother." -Proverbs 18:24

Sometimes God uses us in ways we would never imagine. Listen to this story about one of our favorite hymns.

Joseph Scriven was excited! He and his fiancé had planned for their wedding a long time and soon it would all come true. Or would it? Tragically, the day before the wedding, Joseph found himself standing on the bank of a river as the lifeless body of his loved one was pulled from the water. She had fallen from her horse and died after a blow to her head. Joseph was crushed, and he made up his mind to travel to Canada, to begin a new life.

Described as a man of short stature with iron-gray hair and light blue eyes that sparkled when he talked, Joseph spent his time in Port Hope, Canada, doing odd jobs as charity for those of the Port Hope area. He was often seen carrying with him a saw to cut fire wood for the poor and aged. When someone asked if he would cut wood for them, he answered that he only did it for the needy. Joseph freely gave of himself to everyone. He was even known to give away his own clothing to help those in need.

Ten years after arriving in Port Hope, he received word that his mother was dying. In a letter that Joseph wrote to her, he included the words to a poem he had written especially for her. That poem began with the words, "What a Friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear."

Back at Port Hope, Joseph fell in love a second time, this time with a lovely lady named Eliza Catherine Roche. Once again they planned for a wonderful wedding, and once again tragedy struck. Shortly before the expected day, Eliza died from tuberculosis. Once again Joseph Scriven was crushed and his heart was broken. Yet as time went by, he continued to help those in need, because he knew that is what his Lord wanted him to do. He served the people of Port Hope every opportunity he had.

In October of 1886, Joseph himself became very ill. The story is told that in his sickness he became delirious and wandered outside his cabin where he fell into a small creek and drowned. Scriven was 66 years old. Years after his death, the people of Port Hope erected a large monument just outside of town giving tribute to the man who wrote the words to the precious hymn "What a Friend We Have in Jesus."

Joseph Scriven lived a life filled with disappointment and tragedy. Time and again his faith was tested by his loving God, yet God always assured Joseph that he is still the best and dearest friend. Certainly Joseph never realized that the poem he wrote for his mother would bring joy and comfort to millions of believers.

In Christ, Mike Allard, Principal @ St. John's

Upcoming Events

Thursday, Dec 7

BB Practice

B Team 3:30-4:30

A Team 4:00-5:15

Sunday, Dec 10

Worship 9:00 am

Sunday School 10:15 am

Bible Class 10:15 am

Tuesday, Dec 12

NO BREAKFAST

BB Practice

B Team 3:30-4:30

A Team 4:00-5:15

Wednesday, Dec 13

NO BREAKFAST

Chapel 8:20 am

Pioneers 5:30 pm

Thursday, Dec 14

NO BREAKFAST

BB Practice

B Team 3:30-4:30

A Team 4:00-5:15

Friday, Dec 15

Faculty-Staff Christmas

Party 5:30 pm

Sunday, Dec 17

Gr. K-8 Christmas Program
9:00 am

Sunday School 10:15 am

Bible Class 10:15 am

Monday, Dec 18

Dartball @ Globe-Christie

Tuesday, Dec 19

BB Practice

B Team 3:30-4:30

A Team 4:00-5:15

3K/4K Christmas Program
6:00 pm

Wednesday, Dec 20

Chapel 8:20 am

BB Practice:

Thursday, Dec 7:

B Team 3:30-4:30; A Team 4:00-5:15

Tuesday, Dec 12:

B Team 3:30-4:30; A Team 4:00-5:15

Thursday, Dec 14:

B Team 3:30-4:30; A Team 4:00-5:15

Breakfast Schedule: Since Mrs. Coleman and Mrs. Fields will both be gone various times during **the week of December 11th, WE WILL NOT BE SERVING BREAKFAST TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, OR THURSDAY NEXT WEEK.** Lunch will be served as normal all week.

Pioneers Cookie Decorating & Christmas Party: Our Pioneer group will be having a special meeting next **Wednesday, December 13th**, at **5:30** to decorate cookies to be put into care packages for our shut-in members. Some supplies are needed: cut-out sugar cookies, white frosting, apples, oranges, string cheese, and fudge. If you are able to help by donating any of these items, please contact Mrs. Shadrack at 715-897-0903. Thank you!

We will also be having our Pioneer Christmas party this night. Boys should bring a gift for a boy, and girls should bring a gift for a girl (\$5-\$10 gift). Children can bring snacks if they wish.

Children's Christmas Services: All students are expected to participate in our children's Christmas services. We wanted to give parents a heads-up so that you can plan accordingly. This is part of our religion curriculum.

Grades K-8: Sunday, Dec 17 at 9:00 a.m.

Grades 3K/4K: Tuesday, Dec 19 at 6:00 p.m.

Christmas Service Music: We are looking for students who would be willing to play or sing pre-service music for our children's Christmas service on December 17th. If your son or daughter would like to participate, please talk to Mrs. Sternitzky, or you may call the school office at 715-743-2501.

Bruce Mound Outing: Grades 2-8 will be having a fun day at Bruce Mound on Thursday, December 21st, weather permitting. Permission sheets and rental forms were sent home. **Please return those, along with payment, as soon as possible.** We will need drivers so please consider coming along!

Camp Phillip Scholarships: Our Friends of St. John's group (parent organization) has funds set aside to provide scholarships for students who would like to go to Camp Phillip in Wautoma next summer. If you are interested in sending your children and would like to apply for a scholarship, please fill out the Google form (link listed below) by December 23rd. We will discuss the scholarship applications at our next parent meeting in January. (Camp Phillip registration opens up February 1st.)

<https://forms.gle/3e3rcGz5w63HTjyq7>

School/ELC Schedule:

Friday, December 22nd: School will dismiss at noon. Busing will be available, both for morning drop-off and going home at noon. **WE WILL NOT BE SERVING LUNCH TO STUDENTS IN K-8 THAT DAY.**

Lunch will still be served for those children who are staying for childcare.

There will be NO SCHOOL for 3K-8th Grade from **December 25th through January 2nd**, as we enjoy our Christmas break. School will resume on Wednesday, January 3rd.

The ELC will be CLOSED **December 25th** and **January 1st**.

Amazon Wish List: If you're interested in purchasing Christmas gifts for the K-1st Grade classroom, Mrs. Shadrick has updated her Amazon wish list with items she would like for the classroom. To access her list, go to:

<https://a.co/6PmhZSp>

2024 Calendars: Beautiful 2024 wall calendars with Scripture verses are available. Buy 1 for \$8.00 or two for \$15.00. Proceeds will go toward costs for teens to attend the International Youth Rally next year in Colorado. Inspire your year or give as gifts!

Looking Ahead: Plan to attend our next parent meeting on Wednesday, January 10th, to discuss the upcoming pancake breakfast and also listen to a special devotion on Christian education and its importance.



Fletcher Boon

The student of the week is Fletcher Boon. Fletcher is in 4th Grade. He works hard, participates in class discussions, is polite, gets his work done, and sets a good example for his fellow classmates.



Congratulations Fletcher!