



The Buzz

May 2, 2024

WALK WITH GOD—TALK WITH GOD **Fanny Crosby Walked With God**

“Though you have made me see troubles, many and bitter, You will restore my life again.”
-Psalm 71:20

What do James Apple, Florence Booth, Jenny Garnet, Annie James, Maude Marion, Sam Martin, Edna Park, Sally Smith, Mary Tilden, and Carrie Wilson have in common? These are all names for the same person: Frances Jane Crosby, one of the most amazing Christian women of modern times. She was better known by her nickname, Fanny. So, what amazing feat did Fanny accomplish? Although completely blind, Fanny Crosby is credited with writing nearly ten thousand hymns!

Frances Crosby was born in Putnam County, New York, in 1820. She suffered a severe eye infection when only two months old. Unfortunately, her family doctor was away leaving her to be treated by a quack doctor who told her mother to apply hot mustard poultices to her eyes. Eventually she overcame her illness, but she was left blind for life. A few months later her father died, leaving her mother and grandmother to care for her. These two women worked tirelessly with Fanny, teaching her a great love for poetry and the Bible. At age 8 Fanny wrote: *Oh, what a happy soul I am, how many blessings I enjoy though I cannot see! I am resolved that in this world contented I will be. I cannot, and I won't weep and sigh because I am blind!*

Besides writing poetry, Fanny zealously studied her Bible, often memorizing several chapters a week. Shortly after her 15th birthday, she was accepted at the new New York Institute for the Blind. This would be her home as student and later as teacher for 23 years. As a student she continued her love of poetry. She personally recited poetry to every president in her lifetime!

At age 23, she was invited as the first woman to address the Congress of the United States. In 1858 she married Alexander van Alstine, a blind musician. They had one child who died in infancy. After that death, Fanny began writing Christian gospel songs in earnest. Her simple stanzas were especially welcomed by evangelists who wanted easy and catchy songs for crowds to sing. Although under contract to write three hymns a week, it wasn't unusual for her to write six or seven a day, receiving a payment of a dollar or two per hymn. Musicians hurried to put her lyrics to melody. Her music became so popular that all the new gospel songbooks were filled with songs by Fanny. Eventually she began using over 75 pseudonyms or fake names to show a fair mix of hymn writers in publications.

Among her gems are “To God Be the Glory,” “Blessed Assurance,” “Safe in the Arms of Jesus,” and “All the Way My Savior Leads.” Fanny once said of her blindness, “If at birth I could have made one request, it would have been that I was born blind, because when I get to heaven, the first face that will gladden my sight will be that of my Savior.” Fanny died in 1915, a month shy of her 95th birthday. Her last words were for a hymn she was working on at the time, “You will reach the riverbank, some sweet day, bye and bye.” We all have that certain hope that Fanny did through faith in our Savior Jesus!

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

Upcoming Events

Thursday, May 2

Seal-A-Smile

Sunday, May 5

Worship 9:00 am

Sunday School 10:15 am

Bible Class 10:15 am

Monday, May 6

School Board 5:15 pm

Wednesday, May 8

Chapel 8:20 am

FSJ 6:00 pm

Thursday, May 9

Supper 5:00 pm

Ascension Day Worship
6:00 pm

Friday, May 10

No Public School
Alternate Bus Routes

Faculty Mtg 3:15 pm

Sunday, May 12

Worship 9:00 am

Sunday School 10:15 am

Bible Class 10:15 am

Monday, May 13

Gr. 4-5 Field Trip to
Norskedalen

Tuesday, May 14

Worship 6:00 pm

Wednesday, May 15

Chapel 8:20 am

Thursday, May 16

3K/4K Trip to Wildwood
Zoo

Music, Lit, Skit 6:00 pm

Parents' Meeting-5/8: We will hold our final parents' meeting of the school year on Wednesday, May 8th, beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the school gym. All of you are invited to attend. Childcare will be available.

Please make plans to attend this meeting. We will be talking about important information for the next school year—included will be a discussion on the tuition increase for next school year.

Parents who signed up to help provide supper that evening are: **Ed & Jenn Schmid and Mike & Megan Allard**. Please contact one of them if you would like to help provide food.

Ascension Day Worship-5/9: We will be having a special Ascension Day worship service on Thursday, May 9, at 6:00 p.m., to which all are invited.

Our church's Altar Guild will be serving supper that evening before the worship service. Serving will begin at 5:00 p.m. in the school gym. All are invited. The menu will include salads, sandwiches, and extras.

Alternate Bussing-5/10: We will have our alternate bus routes on Friday, May 10th, as the public school has that day off.

Music, Lit, & Skit Night-5/16: Our annual Music & Literature Appreciation Night will be held on Thursday, May 16th, at 6:00 p.m. in the main part of the church.

What kind of show will it be? We would like to have singers, piano players, and other instrumentalists, but we'd also like to broaden the show to involve people who may not be musically inclined. We are also looking for people who may want to read an excerpt from a favorite book, or read a poem they've written, or act out a skit...The list is endless. There are no "prizes" involved; we just want to share our God-given talents with each other and have a fun evening.

Hoops for Heart-5/17: Grades 5-8 will be participating in Hoops for Heart at St. Mark in Eau Claire on Friday, May 17th. Lunch will be provided at St. Mark (there is no charge to parents). **We need 2-3 more drivers!** If any parents would like to come along and could drive, please talk to Mr. Allard.

Awards Banquet-5/17: Our Awards Banquet will be held in the school gym on Friday, May 17, beginning at 6:00 p.m. We will be handing out awards for honor roll, perfect attendance, athletics, band, etc. for students in grades K-8, and will be acknowledging our students of the week. We are hoping that all school families can attend this special event. A light supper will be served. **So that we can get a count of how many will be attending, please return the RSVP sheets that were sent home this week.**

Youth Group Brat Fry-5/18: Our Youth Group will be having a brat fry at IGA on Saturday, May 18th, from 10:00-2:00. Proceeds will go to help cover costs for the teens to attend the International Youth Rally in Colorado in June.

Graduation Sunday-5/19: **Students in grades K-8 will be singing for our Graduation worship service on Sunday, May 19th.** The service begins at 9:00 a.m. In a special ceremony during the worship service, our 8th graders will be receiving their diplomas.

Track Meet-5/20: Everyone in Grades K-8 will be participating in our annual track meet at UW-Stout in Menomonie on Monday, May 20th. A small lunch will be provided at the meet; students can bring other food along if they wish. Watch for further details. **We really need as many parent volunteers as possible to make the day run smoothly, especially in the lower grades (K-3), so that children know where to go and what to do. Please check your calendars. You can ride the bus or drive yourself. Let us know if you would like to come along.**

Preschool Graduation-5/22: 3K and 4K will be having a special graduation ceremony on Wed., May 22nd, at 6:00 p.m.

Last Day of School-5/23: Our last day of school will be **Thursday, May 23. That is a half-day only.** We will have a closing chapel service that morning at 8:20, to which all parents are invited. We will have a picnic lunch at **11:00**, to which all parents are also invited, and school will dismiss after lunch. There will be no busses at noon, so parents will need to make arrangements to transport their children home.

We will be providing hamburgers and hotdogs for lunch. If you are planning on joining us, please bring a dish to pass. Thank you!

Intramural Softball: Students in grades 4th-8th will be playing each other during the afternoon recesses throughout the weeks until the end of the year. Remind your child to bring his/her glove. Thanks to Pastor Wilke for setting this up and being our umpire.

Tuition: For those of you who still have a balance on your tuition, please remember that is due in full by the last day of school, **May 23rd**. Call the office with any questions.

24-25 Registration: 2024-25 school registration forms have been sent home. Please look for those, and return them to school as soon as possible. Thanks!

Congratulations: We congratulate Mrs. Mary Luchterhand on her retirement from her position as Lead Teacher of the Toddler Room here at St. John's. Mary played a large role in preparing for and opening up our Early Learning Center here and we definitely couldn't have done this without her. Mary does want to thank the parents for all their support throughout the years. Mary loves her work here with the children so much that she isn't quite ready to be done completely and will still work in the Learning Center on a part time and as needed basis. Mrs. McKayla Schoen will be taking over the Lead Teacher role starting this summer. We are still looking for a classroom aide for the toddler room. If you or anyone you know has interest in this position, please let us know and ask Megan Allard for more information.



Jarus Backaus

The student of the week is Jarus Backaus. Jarus is in 4th Grade. He has been a hard worker all year, gets his work done, is polite and respectful, and sets a good example.



Congratulations Jarus!