

**Special called School Board meeting**

The Nicholas County Board of Education will hold a special meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 2, to address the issue of the out-of-district attendance policy.

**Conservation District Board to meet**

The Nicholas County Conservation District Board of Supervisors will meet on Wednesday night, May 3, at 7:30 p.m. at the Old Armory in Carlisle.

**Lions Club to host Mud Sling**

The Frenchburg Lions Club will be hosting a Mud Sling on Sunday, May 7, at 2:00 p.m., at the Frenchburg Lions Club Park.

**Bourbon Co. High School Alumni picnic to be held**

The Bourbon County High School Alumni Association invites all graduates to an old-fashioned picnic on Saturday, June 10, 2000 at 5:00 p.m. on the high school campus. Meet will be provided. Bring a covered dish and a lawn chair and come out for a fun, friendly, relaxed evening. A charge of \$3 will be for the meat. Hope to see you June 10th. To make a reservation call Rita Williams at 987-2185, Mike Williams at 293-6713 or Ramona Hurst at 987-4672 or mail to BCHS 3343 Lexington Road, Paris, KY 40361.

**Calendar**

**Chamber of Commerce Farmer's Market looking for participants**

The Chamber of Commerce is currently working on a Farmer's Market. There will be no charge to set up. If anyone is interested in participating in the market, we would like for you to call 289-6489. We need to get an idea of how many people are interested so we can make plans.

**Geared Up For A Cure**

(NAPS)—Still haven't lived up to that millennial resolution to do something to help? Well, you can help. The American Diabetes Association is currently working on a campaign to raise awareness about diabetes. One-third of the population does not even know they have it! As a participant in Tour de Cure, you will not only help the Association raise funds for diabetes research, but also help raise awareness about this potentially life-threatening complication.

**National sponsors of Tour de Cure include:** People Magazine, Bicycling Magazine, The Bicycle Council and Yahoo!

To learn how to participate in this exciting event, call the American Diabetes Association at 1-800-545-7488 or visit our website at www.diabetes.org/tour. You will be riding to prevent and cure diabetes and to improve the lives of all those affected by the disease. Diabetes is this country's

**THE CARLISLE MERCURY**

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**Nicholas County Ministerial Association Pastor's Pen**

by Rev. Jim Rucker  
Carlisle Presbyterian Church

**The Long Finger of Guilt**

David was justifiably angry! The prophet Nathan had just told a story that offended every one of David's finer instincts. A rich man had reconstructed his memory in such a way that his sin did not loom large, and he was backed up by all the power vested in his royal office. The man who has done this deserves die. Then David sat back, fairly well satisfied with his swift administration of justice. This one could be added to the pile. Case Closed.

But was it? In what was to be one of the most poignant speeches in the Bible, the prophet turns the tables on David, point his long finger of guilt straight at David and passes judgment on the judge. "You are the man! The incident with Uriah the Hittite had gone unnoticed after all (see II Samuel 11). Had David seriously thought God would overlook his appropriation of Uriah's wife, Bathsheba? Or his sinning against the Lord," he admits bluntly. Whatever blinders he had worn to shield himself from the appalling nature of his actions fell away. David's heart must have frozen within him as we awaited sentencing. Would God's judgement be as swift and as brutal as his own had been?

God's sentence was indeed swift but perhaps more merciful. David himself would be spared, but the child born of his illicit union with Bathsheba would die. What kind of justice is this, we ask, that condemns the innocent to punish the guilty? Though it may seem like sidestepping a legitimate and important issue, notice that the Bible does not seem concerned with this question. It simply goes on to describe the awful after effects of the sentence. God's judgement exacts an awful price on the now penitent David.

Two things can be learned from this. The first is how easy it is to reconstruct reality to suit our own vanity, to fit our own needs. The second, however, is the importance of checking our own version of reality against someone else's, preferably that of someone of considerable spiritual maturity. Do their perceptions bear any resemblance to our own?

Repentance is a critical part of life after grace. But we can't repent properly if we are caught in the snares of our own self-deception. Typing out one of two things happens when we are confronted with a sin about which we have deceived ourselves. Either we deny the sin and respond with horror and repentance, or we dig our heels in deeper, denying a version of ourselves we cannot face. The first reaction is the first step toward forgiveness and wholeness; the second is a recipe for spiritual disaster.

David, of course, chose the first. His repentance gave birth to a prayer that has helped generations of the faithful acknowledge their guilt and receive God's assurance of pardon. "The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit," he says, "a broken and contrite heart. O God, you will not despise (Psalm 51).

George MacDonald wrote some words that seemed designed for those of us who struggle against self-deception: "With self, O Father, leave me not alone. Leave not the beguiler with the beguiled; Bemused and ragged, do not take back thine own. A fool I bring thee to make a child."

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**Obituaries**

**Ada H. Graves Hollar 1924-2000**

Ada H. Graves Hollar, 75, of 1405 A High Street, Paris, KY, widow of Roy Cecil "Shorty" Hollar died Monday, April 24, 2000 after an extended illness. A native of Bourbon County, she was born August 3, 1924 to Ora and Anna Hogan Graves. She is retired from Bluegrass Industries as an inspector. She was a member of the Oakland Mills Methodist church for over 20 years and enjoyed quilting. Survivors include three sons, Ed and R.J. Lucky of South Haven, Mississippi, Gary (Donal) Bradburn, Paris, KY, and James Bobby (Lillian) Bradburn of Bourbon Co. KY; one daughter, Bonnie (Walter) Mitchell of Carlisle, KY; two brothers, Woody (Pat) Graves of Nicholas Co., KY and Shirley Graves of Lexington, KY; one sister, Brenda (Jerry) King of North Middletown.

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**Healthy Seniors present**

Mother's Health Care, Inc. will be having a "Healthy Cooking for one or two" on Thursday, April 27, at the Nicholas County Library Basement beginning at 7:00 p.m. The presentation will be presented by Betty Overby, Family and Consumer Science Agent, UK College of Agriculture. Beverly will give a brief talk and demonstration about healthy cooking, recipes and meal planning for one or two people. She will also be available to answer your questions. Admission is free and open to the public. For more information call Cassinda Bechman at 289-7181 for more information.

**Veterans Affairs looking for family member**

The Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs has been asked by the U.S. Department of Defense to try and locate the family members of soldier's missing in action, KIA, or P.O.W.'s of the Korean War. The Korean government has been cooperating in trying to locate their remains for return to their loved ones. We have been given a list of men from the State of Kentucky who served and are lost. We ask your help in trying to locate the families of these men for D.N.A. testing to claim the remains found or for the ones in the future. Any concerned call 606-824-0340 and leave a message if we're out of the office.

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