

“And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.”

— I Peter 5 : 4 (NASB)

As many of you already know, I am an ice hockey fan. I first started watching the sport when I was in Jr. High school. Some of my friends and I got interested by watching the *one* televised game each week, during the months of January and February. Then, to cap off our season, we watched the Stanley Cup finals. There were only six teams in the NHL in those days. So, each one of us would pick a team for which we would cheer and be their biggest fan. None of us could skate, nor had we ever been to a live game, but we made the best of it.



As time went on, I had several opportunities to follow the game more closely. One of my uncles used to occasionally take my brother, myself, and a friend or two to see the Cincinnati Stingers. When I attended Ohio University, my Winter Quarter Friday and Saturday nights were spent at Byrd Arena, cheering on the Bobcat team. I’ve been to semi-pro games, and professional minor league games in Huntington, WV and Ft. Wayne, IN. The best, of course, have been the NHL games we’ve attended in Columbus, rooting for the Blue Jackets. I’ve come to have a fascination, an obsession if you will, for the game and the people who play it. Just last week, I watched, yet again, the final game of the NHL season, and witnessed what many describe as the most incredible achievement in all of sports ... the winning of the Stanley Cup, and its presentation to the NHL Champions.

The Stanley Cup Trophy has been around for 132 years and has a storied history. It is revered. So many players who have won it have admitted they dreamed of winning it when they were children. To have your name inscribed upon one of the silver plates that adorn it is considered one of the greatest honors one can receive. Just to touch it is looked upon as nearly a spiritual experience. Let me share an example with you. I recently watched a video of a grandfather who was blind, with his grandson (who looked to be about 12 years old) being led down a hallway to a closed door. The boy was then told to open the door, and they could enter the room. Once inside, the grandfather, with his white cane in hand, was puzzled by his grandson’s silence. “Where are we?” he inquired.



The boy, in hushed tones, spoke in broken

phrases. “We’re in a room ... and there’s nothing here ... except the Stanley Cup.”

“THE Stanley Cup?” the grandfather gasped. “Is it REALLY the Cup?”

“Yes,” the grandson replied. “It’s on a pedestal in the middle of the room.”

“Take me to it,” the old man commanded.

The youngster took his old, blind grandfather by the hand and slowly and deliberately led him to the giant trophy, which was bathed in light and gleaming as if it had recently been polished. Once they reached the podium, the boy raised the old man’s hand up to where the Cup stood. Tentatively, the man began to touch the sides, carefully examining the object. He dropped his cane, and raised the other hand. Gently and with great care, he felt all around the nearly three-foot tall trophy. As he did, a smile began to break out across his face. Simultaneously, tears began to stream down his cheeks. The joy that was overwhelming him could not be contained any longer. “It IS the Cup!” he shouted. “Oh, my! Oh, my! I never dreamed I would ever touch the Stanley Cup!”

Whether this particular video was rehearsed as a propaganda piece, or if it recorded an actual event, is not mine to know for certain. But its content, and message, resonates with millions of hockey fans world-wide. Just to touch that magnificent hunk of silver would send many a fan into an emotional tailspin. It means that much to the game, and it means that much to all who love the game.

In the early Church, the Apostles talked a lot about Heaven, and the things Jesus had shared with them regarding eternity. They also recorded their teachings in the Scriptures so that future generations of believers would know what they knew about what it would be like in the presence of God. One of the things they reported to us is that all believers will receive golden crowns. In our passage for today, the Apostle Peter talks about the **Crown of Glory**, which will be awarded to all the faithful pastors, the Shepherds of God’s flocks. I’m looking forward to that moment when I will receive my crown. I suspect that my reaction will be very similar to that of the grandfather in the aforementioned video. I imagine I will exhibit a smile like no other and tears of joy as I exalt in Christ, our Savior. According to the Bible, there will be other rewards handed out as well – the **Crown of Life** (*James 1:12*), the **Crown of Righteousness** (*2 Timothy 4:5-8*), the **Imperishable Wreath** (*1 Corinthians 9:24-27*), and the **Crown of Exultation** (*1 Thessalonians 2:19-20*).





**Monday, July 8th at 1:00 PM.
Buffalo Wild Wings**

There is a sign-up sheet on the information table at the church if you think you might come!

Have any Questions? Contact Mary Maple at (740) 464-0628 or Trish Shaffer at (740) 727-3284.

Church Leadership Meeting

Monday, July 8, 2024
at 6:30 PM
in the Fellowship Room

Please plan to attend this monthly meeting if you are part of the Leadership Team.



Mary Lou Fillmore & Myra Parker



Please make the following changes to your church directory:

Page 11: Butch and Diann Cook's new address is 1610 28th St., Box 6112, Portsmouth, OH 45662



- 4 — Brock Entler
- 4 — Rebekah Cunningham
- 5 — Michelle Horner
- 6 — David Horner
- 7 — Breanna Bricker
- 10 — Trish Shaffer
- 11 — Bill Burchett
- 12 — Lori Holsinger
- 12 — Mary Maple
- 19 — Jennifer Entler
- 20 — Wilma Gore
- 20 — Christy Irwin
- 23 — Caroline Lyon
- 24 — Jude Persin
- 25 — Belinda Hopkins
- 25 — Miles Persin
- 27 — Cinnamon Wellington
- 28 — Debbie Stahler
- 31 — Sheena Preston



- July 2 — Dan & Loreen Maple
- July 5 — Nicole & James Persin
- July 13 — Randy & Connie Shy
- July 19 — Butch & Diann Cook
- July 23 — Roy & Melissa Lucas



Connie Shy & Kelly McCoy

The Ladies Banquet was a fun-filled night! Originally scheduled May 10th, it was rescheduled for May 31st. Pastor Pete acted as emcee for the night and came up with many funny and hard questions for ways to win door prizes. Together Pastor Pete & his mom, Shelby, shared, a hilarious “Lessons I Learned From My Mom.”

Miles Persin also drew names for door prize drawings. The final (3) prizes were GIANT hanging baskets filled with over-flowing petunias from Dillow’s Greenhouse. Winners were Lori Holsinger, Nichole (Lauder) Persin, and Mary Maple. Many thanks goes to Paul Conley for organizing and doing the cooking! Dinner included ham, macaroni & cheese, baked beans, green beans, coleslaw, rolls, and dessert. Other helpers included: Danny Maple, Pete Shaffer, Roger Cunningham, Mark Browning, JR Holsinger, Gary Sparks, Ben Sparks, Kenny Renn



Kimmy, Gabby & Becky Sparks



Nicole Persin, Kima Lauder, & Miles Persin



Shelby Shaffer, Nancy Roush, & Trish Shaffer



Peggy Melvin, Janet Weghorst, & April Skaggs



Rhonda Hammond, Ruth Mershon, & Angel Hammond



Wilma Gore, Belinda Hopkins, & Karen Coleman



Casey Reed Teeters & Lori Holsinger



Some of Men Helping at the Banquet.
Starting left center going clockwise: Pastor Pete & Miles Persin, Ben Sparks making sure ladies got their gift bags and names in for the door prize drawing.
L-R: Paul Conley, Roger Cunningham and Mark Browning in the kitchen, Pastor Pete's Dad, Pete Shaffer, Kenny Renn, & Dan Maple by the drink cart, Bill Burchett and Don Roush, Pastor Pete's uncle, and Peggy Melvin getting coffee at the end of dessert counter.



Rhonda Hammond, Ruth Mershon, Angel Hammond, Delaney Maple, & Mary Maple



Cinamon Wellington, Pam Lester, & Paisley Wellington



OFFERINGS

June 2	\$3,270.17
June 9	\$2,847.00
June 16	\$3,198.00
June 23	\$3,444.68
June 30	\$2,941.65

ATTENDANCE

June 2	71
June 9	66
June 16	54
June 23	56
June 30	68



With Thanks

Thank you sooo much for serving our families and volunteers at JAF Family Retreat at Shawnee. The ice cream sundaes are such a family favorite!! We have all been so blessed by your and your church's willingness to serve. What a beautiful way to show Glory to God!

Best Regards, *Sara Cartellone*, Special Events Coordinator



HAPPY 4TH OF JULY



Gideon's Speaker

will be with us
during Morning Worship
on Sunday, July 14th

Special offering will be taken.

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I know what you're probably thinking: "Just to make it to Heaven will be reward enough for me." I get that. But I also know that the Scriptures are very clear about rewards in Heaven. Personally, I can't wait to hold a golden crown in my hands, knowing that it will be a gift from the Lord Jesus. And the ultimate will be, joining with the twenty-four Elders, surrounding the Throne of God, and casting our crowns at the feet of Jesus, as is recorded in Revelation 4. I hope we'll be singing the last two lines of verse 4 of Charles Wesley's hymn, *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* that says,



"Changed from glory into glory, til in heaven we take our place;
Til we cast our crowns before Thee, lost in wonder, love and praise."

Pastor Pete

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