

CEDAR GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

NEWSLETTER — MAY 2015



We believe that salvation is the gift of God brought to man by grace and received through personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ plus nothing. His precious blood was shed on Calvary for the forgiveness of our sins. The salvation of the ill-deserving sinner is based on the finished work of Jesus Christ, who became the sinner's substitute before God and died a provisional sacrifice for the sins of the whole world.

MOTHER'S DAY



When all is said, it is the mother, and the mother only, who is a better citizen than the soldier who fights for his country. The successful mother, the mother who does her part in rearing and training aright the boys and girls, who are to be the men and women of the next generation, is of greater use to the community, and occupies, if she only would realize it, a more honorable as well as more important position than any man in it. The mother is the one supreme asset of the national life. She is more important, by far, than the successful statesman, or businessman, or artist, or scientist.

—Theodore Roosevelt

Cedar Grove Baptist Church
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THE HAND THAT ROCKS THE CRADLE IS THE HAND THAT RULES THE WORLD.

William Ross Wallace (1819-1881)

BLESSINGS on the hand of women!
Angels guard its strength and grace.
In the palace, cottage, hovel,
Oh, no matter where the place;
Would that never storms assailed it,
Rainbows ever gently curled,
For the hand that rocks the cradle
Is the hand that rules the world.

Infancy's the tender fountain,
Power may with beauty flow,
Mothers first to guide the streamlets,
From them souls unresting grow—
Grow on for the good or evil,
Sunshine streamed or evil hurled,
For the hand that rocks the cradle
Is the hand that rules the world.

Woman, how divine your mission,
Here upon our natal sod;
Keep—oh, keep the young heart open
Always to the breath of God!
All true trophies of the ages
Are from mother-love impearled,
For the hand that rocks the cradle
Is the hand that rules the world.

Blessings on the hand of women!
Fathers, sons, and daughters cry,
And the sacred song is mingled
With the worship in the sky—
Mingles where no tempest darkens,
Rainbows evermore are hurled;
For the hand that rocks the cradle
Is the hand that rules the world.

I found an additional verse, but cannot
verify that it is part of the original poem.

They say that man is mighty,
He governs land and sea,
He wields a mighty sceptre,
O'er lesser powers that be,
But a mightier power and stronger,
Man from his throne has hurled,
For the hand that rocks the cradle,
Is the hand that rules the world.

Ladies, God in His infinite love and wisdom has given to you the awesome privilege and responsibility of motherhood. Far beyond the physical ability to bear children, He has permitted you to become Mothers. By nature, He has given you more love and nurture and more influence on the future of the human race than He has given to the male of the species.



ANNIVERSARIES

| | |
|-------------------------|--------|
| Marty & Anita Grainger | 07 May |
| Buddy & Sharon Grainger | 16 May |
| Bill & Linda Heath | 20 May |



BIRTHDAYS

| | |
|-----------------|---------|
| Jack Caviness | 01 May |
| Tom Alderin | 10 May |
| Jacob Whitehead | 28 May |
| Barbara Jones | 06 June |

A HISTORY OF MOTHER'S DAY

Mother's Day, in one form or another, has been around a long time. In ancient Greece, a celebration honoring mothers occurred every Spring.

In the Middle Ages, a custom called *Mothering Sunday* began when children, who often left home early to learn a trade or become apprentices, would be released from work every year on the fourth Sunday of Lent to attend church with their families. As they returned home, they often took cakes or little gifts to their mothers. This was termed "going a-mothering." To this day, Mother's Day in the United Kingdom is celebrated on the fourth Sunday of Lent.

It was in 1872 that Julia Ward Howe (author of *The Battle Hymn of the Republic*) suggested the idea of Mother's Day in the United States.

The cause was taken up by Anna Jarvis, daughter of a Methodist pastor. Jarvis felt the scars of the Civil War could be healed by mothers—and by honoring mothers. She died in 1905 before her dream of establishing a holiday could be fulfilled. But her daughter, also named Anna Jarvis, took up the crusade.

Anna had been deeply influenced by her mother, and she often recalled hearing her mother say that she hoped someone would one day establish a memorial for all mothers, living and dead.

Anna had been particularly touched at age twelve while listening to her mother teach a Sunday school class on the subject "Mothers in the Bible." Mrs. Jarvis closed the lesson with a prayer to this effect: *I hope and pray that someone, sometime, will found a memorial mother's day. There are many days for men, but none for mothers.*

Anna never forgot that moment, and at their mother's graveside service, Anna's brother Claude heard her say "... by the grace of God, you shall have that Mother's Day."

Anna thus began a campaign to establish a national Mother's Day. She and her supporters began to write a constant stream of letters to ministers, businessmen, politicians and newspa-

per editors. She spent a fortune trying to attract attention to her idea, and took every opportunity to give speeches, send telegrams, or write articles promoting her cause.

On the second anniversary of her mother's death, May 12, 1907, Anna led a small tribute to her mother at Andrews Methodist Episcopal Church in Gafton, West Virginia. She donated five hundred white carnations, her mother's favorite flower, to be worn by everyone in attendance. On this first Mother's Day service, the pastor used the text, "Woman, behold thy son; Son, behold thy mother." ([John 19:26](#)) That same day a special service was held at the Wanamaker Auditorium in Philadelphia, which could seat no more than a third of the fifteen thousand people who showed up.

After that, things begin to take off. Various states jumped on the bandwagon, officially proclaiming a Mother's Day each year, and, in 1914, President Woodrow Wilson officially established Mother's Day a national holiday to be held on the second Sunday of May.

But having succeeded at last, Anna Jarvis soon became embittered by the commercialization of the holiday and turned against it, actually filing a lawsuit to stop a 1923 Mother's Day festival. She was even arrested for disturbing the peace at a mother's convention where women sold white carnations.

"This is not what I intended," Jarvis growled. "I wanted it to be a day of sentiment, not profit!"

"A printed card means nothing except that you are too lazy to write to the woman who has done more for you than anyone in the world," she said on another occasion. "And candy! You take a box to Mother—and then eat most of it yourself. A pretty sentiment."

Shortly before her death in 1948, Anna Jarvis, living in a nursing home, received Mother's Day cards from all around the world. But she told a reporter she was sorry she had ever started the whole thing.

We aren't.

AMAZING GRACE

*Who am I, O LORD . . . that You have brought me this far?
– 1 Chronicles 17:16*

Perhaps you'll be surprised to learn that "Amazing Grace" is a New Year's hymn. On Friday morning, January 1, 1773, John Newton, former slave trader and infidel, preached a New Year's message from 1 Chronicles 17:16–17 in his church at Olney, England. Newton opened his sermon, saying, "The Lord bestows many blessings upon His people, but unless He likewise gives them a thankful heart, they lose much of the comfort they might have." He told his church to look back at God's goodness, look around at God's promises, and look forward to future usefulness. In concluding, Newton introduced a poem he'd written for the occasion, the hymn "Amazing Grace."¹

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
That sav'd a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears reliev'd;

How precious did that grace appear,
The hour I first believ'd!

Thro' many dangers, toils and snares,
I have already come;

'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,
The sun forbear to shine;

But God, who call'd me here below,
Will be forever mine.

There is no evidence to suggest that Newton or his English contemporaries ever recognized that "Amazing Grace" was a composition of special, let alone of unique, quality. He made no further mention of it in his diaries during the remaining thirty-four years of his life...

Yet while "Amazing Grace" was languishing in obscurity in Newton's home country, it was rising in popularity on the other side of the Atlantic. This popularity had its roots in the very different religious culture of the United States, whose church congregations, particularly in the Deep South, loved to sing hymns with soulful feelings. ...

The tune now inseparably linked to "Amazing Grace" was called "New Britain." No one knows where it came from. It had never been connected with a hymn until 1835 when it was suddenly popularized by a well-known compiler of spiritual songs, William Walker, a singing instructor from South Carolina. His musically scored songbook *The Southern Harmony* was the first published connection between Newton's words and the now familiar melody. Up till that time, the words had been sung to a variety of tunes, but because *The Southern Harmony* sold six hundred thousand copies in the decade after its publication in 1835 (an astonishing total in a country that then had only 2.3 million inhabitants), it established the union of the words and the music of "Amazing Grace" once and for all.

William Walker, whose role is second only to John Newton's in the historical saga of "Amazing Grace," was a collector of tunes that he compiled when traveling around the Southern states. He had a good ear, and he wrote down the music he heard on his travels. He also sourced existing songbooks, some of which contained airs with musical similarities to the tune that he gave to Newton's words in *The Southern Harmony*. The actual process of marrying the words to the music can only be guessed at, because the tune known as "New Britain" was a mixture of traditional and contemporary melodies circulating in the American South in the early nineteenth century.²

¹ Robert J. Morgan, *Near to the Heart of God: Meditations on 366 Best-Loved Hymns* (Grand Rapids, MI: Revell, 2010).

² Jonathan Aitken and Philip Yancey, *John Newton: From Disgrace to Amazing Grace* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2007).