

MIDWEST

Pilgrim News

Fall 2022

Publishing Holiness Since 1967





From the Editor

A Little Effort



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Someone once observed that a wasted life is really nothing more than a collection of wasted days. As God gives us life, each one of us starts the new year with the same number of opportunities—365—that we can choose to either use and invest in eternal things or allow to drift by without taking advantage of the gift we have been given. The difference between those who succeed and those who fail is not found primarily in talent but in diligence and effort. (Ministry127.com)

As we near the close of another year our thoughts may be already drifting to 2023. We may be contemplating a new diet and exercise program, or ways to make more money. After all, we do not want to waste the new chapter before us. We want to do all we can to better our life situation.

While there may not be anything wrong with these things, we should consider spiritual improvement over personal and monetary gains. Personal achievements may be necessary and benefit for the time-being, but spiritual ones reap dividends for eternity. As Mary in Luke 10:39, we should be prioritizing the “good part” versus things of lesser importance.

As we enter the last month of 2022 why not take a hard look at your performance this past year in your prayer life, bible study, meditation, worship, missions giving, and Christian service? Compare your time and achievements in these areas with your personal and secular gains. Is your performance reflecting God’s will? What investments have you made for the Kingdom of God? Remember we will be called to give an account for the life we have lived.

If you haven’t done as well as you might have, I would encourage you not to wait for 2023 to make a fresh start. In each day there are 24 hours, 1,440 minutes, and 86,400 seconds-to be spent and there are 31 of these days in December. Why not redeem what you can of 2022 and in so doing, set a pattern for the new year ahead? A little effort can make 2023 the best year yet. ~Editor

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Mission Statement: The mission of the MPN is three- fold: 1.) We desire to glorify God and facilitate the worship of His person. 2.) We seek to promote the Gospel of Christ with its beautiful message of heart holiness. 3.) We seek to be an encouragement to our readers spiritually, as well as an informative source of information to those who relate to, or are interested in, our Conference.

Photo: Silas Joel Boardman was born to Brent and Kirsten Boardman September 22, 2022. Rowan Scott Tomes arrived June 21, 2022, to Kevin and Tracy Tomes.



YOUTUBE

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The President's Page



The changing of the seasons has everyone thinking about change. Fall has transitioned to winter, and we wonder what kind of weather we in the Midwest U.S.A. will have to enjoy or endure, depending on our preference. With the end of 2022 in sight, we may be wondering what the new year will bring.

One thing is sure, and that is that life is filled with changes. Some are quite positive, and others are not so good. Change comes to all of us as we travel through the phases of life. Boyhood turns to manhood. The biggest changes I have encountered were graduation from high school, employment, conversion, college, marriage, the pastorate, fatherhood, conference work, and the experience of grandfatherhood.

Some change comes to us, like aging. Other things change because of our decisions. Planned change is easier to negotiate. We plan to up production or change vocations. We decide to “get healthy.” We work the plan and go and grow with the changes. However, some changes are more gradual, almost imperceptible. Hosea spoke of a people that have allowed strangers to devour their strength, yet they do not know it. Gray hairs are here and there on them, yet they likewise don’t know it. (Hosea 7:9) This can be dangerous, especially as it relates to health or marriage problems, etc. But how much more dangerous when it is spiritual change.

How have you changed spiritually? Hopefully you are growing in the grace of God. You are getting answers to prayer. Your influence for the Lord is spreading. You are displaying more of the fruit of the Spirit. Sometimes this growth is slow, but as you look backward you can detect it. On the other hand, some folks are changing, some radically. Things they used to call sin are now tolerated or embraced. They look different, have different desires, a different circle of friends, etc. They still claim to love the Lord and worship Him, albeit differently. But there has definitely been a change.

I challenge you to look at your life as we near the end of the year and as many are making plans for the new year. Are you closer to God than last year? Have little things crept into your life, weakening you or hindering you spiritually? If so, why not determine to plan some changes in your life? You may need to make some spiritual resolutions. It may involve more of your time, gifts, influence, or effort. But it will be good change that may glorify God. That is what is all important. Let’s plan for positive change that will draw us closer to the Lord and make us a better witness in 2023.

Rev. Don Nichols

News Board

News From Our Churches



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Click on Links, click on Midwest Pilgrim News



Noblesville, IN

The children of the Noblesville church enjoyed a fall fest and hayride on Sept 16. It was a great time of fun and fellowship.



Madison, IN

Pastor Grissom and the congregation at Madison ministered to their community through a Block Party on Oct. 1st. God blessed with great weather and a great turnout. May God bless this outreach effort in the days ahead.

Austin, IN



The Austin church hosted its first WOW meeting on Sept 24th. The theme was Busy Bees Buzzing Along. Attendees were encouraged to slow down and make sure God was being put first.

Lima, OH



The youth at Lima were treated to a meal at Frisch's. This was a token of appreciation for their help in cleaning up the parsonage and property in Bradford, OH.

Midwest Pilgrim Missions

In a continuing celebration of 50 Years of missionary labor in the Caribbean, our 2022 Self-Denial theme was “50 Years in the Caribbean.” This year’s goal for the Self-Denial offering was \$30,000. The following are some pictures of the 2022 Dominica Camp meeting and the 50-year celebration of the work there. We also have listed an update on the projects currently in progress. The money taken from our Self-Denial offering will be used on the projects listed below. If your church hasn’t yet taken a Self-Denial offering, you may send funds to the Missions Treasurer. John Forsee: 1411 Westfield Road, Noblesville, IN 46062.



Native Pilgrim pastors past and present.



2022 Dominican Camp meeting.

CURRENT STATUS OF THE PARSONAGE IN ANTIGUA

- *The electric conduit is in place and the wiring is run.
- *There are new windows and doors installed.
- *The interior walls are currently being plastered.

ANTIGUA To Do List

- *Completing the electrical switches, receptacles, and ceiling fans.
- *Interior painting
- *Kitchen and restroom cabinets (material and installation)
- *Plastering and painting of the exterior walls

DOMINICA PROJECTS

- *Rebuilding of the back deck on the mission house.
- *Installation of a front porch and entryway.

These projects will include material and hired labor.



Dr. Craig Dahler
Missions Representative



Rev. Maurice and Jean Roll
Resident Missionaries

John 9:4 I must work the works
of him that sent me, while it is
day: the night cometh, when
no man can work.

Fall Photo Album



Pastor Bill and Lynette Spencer



Dave and Connie Hillgoss



The Nathan Grissom Family



The Joe Carey Family



Rev. Don and Faverene Walden



Carl and Vanessa Froelich



Loretta Stroud



Cale and Kristen Manley



Seth and Jerusha Welbaum

Be Still



By Vanessa Froelich

“Shh,...be still.” Have you heard that phrase before? Maybe you have said those words yourself to someone, such as a child sitting in church. Perhaps the words “Be still.” were whispered as an expression of comfort to an anxious soul. The words may be easy to say, but much more difficult to obey, especially for a little one with the case of the wiggles or for someone in a scary situation.

In this crazy, noisy, scary world, being still is quite the task for anyone, child or adult. It is not an easy task to be still in normal circumstances, but have you tried being still when you are afraid? Your heart is pounding, your hands are shaking, and the last thing you want to do is sit still. Everything in you wants to run away as fast as you can from the situation causing you so much fear and anxiety. But there is blessed peace that comes from being still and trusting God. We can look to the Bible for examples of how God performed miracles when people obeyed Him by being still, and we can find strength to do the same.

The Red Sea

In Exodus 14, the children of Israel, led by Moses, had just left Egypt. They were on their way to the Promised Land. They had not travelled far when they met their first obstacle, the Red Sea. How in the world are all these people going to get across this sea? Not only did they have the Red Sea in front of them, but now the Israelites hear chariots belonging to Pharaoh’s army behind them, closing in fast. What are they going to do now?! The Israelites

came to Moses in a panic, “You should have left us in Egypt to be slaves rather than to bring us out here in the wilderness to die!”

God, through his servant Moses, told them “Fear ye not, stand still and see the salvation of the Lord.” (Exodus 14:13) and “The Lord will fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace.” (Verse 14).

The children of Israel listened to Moses and watched as God performed a miracle for them. As they stood still, God caused a strong east wind to blow all night to part the Red Sea, making a path for the people to cross to the other side on dry ground. The Israelites watched in amazement as the enemy Egyptian army was destroyed and the sea returned to normal.

There was nothing the Israelites could have done to save themselves; they had to be still and trust God to save them. Once the Israelites laid aside their panic and fear, and began to obey God’s command to stand still, and later the command to move forward, the people witnessed God’s salvation.

The Moabites and Ammonites

Many years later, long after those wilderness days, God spoke these words again to a king in Judah. In 2 Chronicles 20, King

Jehoshaphat learned that the enemy armies are heading towards Jerusalem, ready for battle. Jehoshaphat was afraid and proclaimed a fast for all the people, and he sought the Lord. He stood in the house of God, asking Him for help in this situation. The king told the Lord that the enemy was marching towards them. Jehoshaphat knew Judah was not strong enough to fight against the Moabites and the Ammonites and admitted that they didn't know what to do. But the king and his people fixed their eyes upon God.

God spoke to a prophet and the prophet told king Jehoshaphat and all Judah to not be afraid. "The battle is not yours, but God's." (2 Chronicles 20:15). God gave further instructions. He said that the people of Judah would not need to fight in this battle, but only "Stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord with you." (verse 17). God promised to be with Jehoshaphat and Judah. Jehoshaphat worshipped the Lord with all the people of Judah. The next morning, the king sent singers ahead of the army; these singers were praising the Lord for His never-ending mercy. Before the people of Judah made it to the battlefield, God caused the enemy armies to destroy themselves. All Judah had to do was take away the spoils. It took them three days to carry away the riches! God fought their battle, just as He had promised.

The Storm

In the New Testament, in the fourth chapter of the book of Mark, we find another lesson on being still. Jesus had just spent much of the day teaching the great crowd of people with parables. As evening came, Jesus suggested to his disciples a trip across the sea. The disciples and Jesus got into the boat and sailed away. It was not smooth sailing. A great storm arose, and all were in danger. The disciples were afraid. I can almost see them, desperately trying to steady the sails, and bail water from the boat, but with little or no success. They remembered that Jesus was also in their boat and begged Him to help them. Jesus calmly stood up and spoke just three little words to the angry sea, "Peace, be still." Immediately, the winds and waves were calm, and the disciples were amazed at the power Jesus displayed. Jesus spoke to the sea, but part of me wonders if He was speaking to the hearts of the frantic disciples as well.

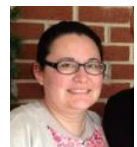
Application

Did you notice a common factor in each of these examples? In each instance, the people were afraid. The children of Israel were afraid of the Red Sea and the Egyptian army. Jehoshaphat and the people of Judah were afraid of the armies of Moab and Ammon. The disciples were afraid of the storm; But in their fear, each group of people heard the Lord say, "Be still." The Lord was telling His people to trust God to save them. There was nothing anyone in the situations above could do to save themselves. Their only hope was God. When they obeyed the command to "Be still", God was faithful to help them overcome their obstacles. God is the same today and He will help us overcome our fears. We can trust God and obey Him when He says to be still, even when we are afraid. Psalm 56:3 says, "What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee." When things are out of our control, and we are tempted to give in to the fear, we can trust in God instead, knowing that He is holding us in His mighty hand. Whatever may be causing us to be afraid, things out of our control or things we don't understand, we can remember God's words in Isaiah 41:10,

**"Fear thou not: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee;
yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness."**

Over and over in the Bible, we read the words "Fear not" and we can take comfort when we remember that God said those words. He also said He would be with us, no matter what we are facing. Jesus is the same, yesterday, today, and tomorrow, and He keeps His promises. Be still, child of God. You don't have to be afraid. Trust God and rejoice in your soul, for He is always with you.

Vanessa Froelich is the Junior Church Director at the Pilgrim Holiness Church in Franklin. She lives in Greenwood, IN with her husband Carl and enjoys traveling, shopping, playing the piano, listening to Southern Gospel music, and spending time with family.



NOBLESVILL CHURCH REPORT

We at the Noblesville Pilgrim Holiness Church are grateful for the blessings God is bestowing upon us. He is a wonderful Lord and is worthy of all praise! In July, we did a study on Wednesday evenings from First, Second, and Third John. It is a blessing to truly know we are saved through the assurance of God's Word. Also, a passage of scripture that we focused on in September during a study on relationships is Php 4:8,9. Apostle Paul wrote,

"Finally brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you." What a great passage upon which to live our lives!

To Page 12



By Stephanie Burley

Grace for the Season

It is Sunday afternoon. The house is quiet except for the hum of the dishwasher as it whisks away the remaining crumbs of a delicious lunch. We are enjoying the slow rhythm of the Sabbath. Outside the window, a mid-day sun is casting shadows across the yellow, orange, and red leaves that resiliently cling to the limbs on which they have grown. We are soaking up the beauty of the season, knowing from experience that change is just around the corner. Soon the trees will be barren, the temperatures will plummet, and those of us in the midwestern region of North America will experience a new and different beauty ushered in by the next season.

Recently, I was thumbing through family photo albums. The emotion invoked by the chubby, smiling faces of my toddlers caused me to smile and reflect. Birthday parties full of balloons and banners, awards celebrations with ribbons and trophies, toothless grins, muddy feet, trains and trucks, dolls and princess dresses all drew my mind to another place in time, and I was made aware of the tremendous changes that are currently occurring in our family dynamic. Rather than shopping for school uniforms, we're locating wedding suits. Birthday parties have evolved into Facetime and an Amazon shipment. Airport runs are a routine part of life. Conversations have shifted from the superficial, "What's for dinner?" to the much weightier, "What does God want to do with my life?"

In September of 2001, we experienced change in America. We were attacked and our vulnerabilities were exposed. The resulting changes impact us yet today. In 2020, there was global change. The pandemic affected each of us in one way or another, with change coming in waves and uncertainty all around. We are still impacted by ripple effects in various ways.

Heraclitus, the Greek philosopher, said, "The only constant in life is change." Some change is unnoticed or subtle, while other change is drastic. Some change brings joy, and other change brings heartache. Nothing stays the same.

The ability to navigate change gracefully and prayerfully is a skill that each of us needs to develop, otherwise we risk being overwhelmed by fear and anxiety. How can we be adaptable and resilient through the expected and unexpected changes life brings?

Understand our mortality – When we come to terms with the fact that each of us has an appointed time to die, we live our lives with that perspective. Each day is a gift and the next one is not promised. For the believer, there is assurance of eternal life, and that is the great hope!

Own our mood – Human emotions are tricky. Feelings are powerful. Our immediate emotional reaction to change will set the tone. It is imperative that we recognize our propensity toward negativity and get in the practice of responding rather than reacting.

Relinquish control – Part of the difficulty that comes with change is the loss of perceived control. When life has predictable rhythms, it just seems easier. We have schedules, roles, and expectations; then all of the sudden a change comes along, and what we have known to be "normal" is gone, and we can't control it. The truth is, we were never meant to be in control. We are playing a role in God's greater plan. It isn't ours, it's His. When we understand that, it becomes easier to say, "Lord, I'm ready to do and be whatever you want me to do and be in this next season." When the attitude of our heart mirrors that statement, we are better set to navigate what will inevitably come our way.

Embrace the outcome -- Sometimes we have such an affinity for our situation that we are unable to see how change may be an incredible benefit. Instead of dwelling on and romanticizing the past, we should find ourselves getting excited about the prospects of the future. What can be great about this new stage or new season? What can you or I do to make it even better? Whatever it is, we need to set about doing it.

Remember the Savior – Everything around us is changing. We are changing. Christ does not change. Hebrews 13:8 "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever." He is our anchor and our constant. As we learn to lean into His unchanging nature, we will find ourselves able to see His good and perfect plan for each stage of life.

I'm smiling as I think about my children all coming home in a few days. I'll be adding new pictures to the album, I'm sure. And twenty years from now, Lord willing, I'll pull out that album and smile as I reminisce about these days and all the changes that have occurred.

Stephanie Burley lives in Lima, Ohio with her husband Greg and 4 children. They attend the PHC in Lima, OH. Stephanie is the principal of the Lima Christian School.

~God wants us to trust him and his ability to change things in our lives.



The Ugly Duckling

I want to share a story with you about a duckling named Sorry. At least that's what he thought his name was, because that's what everyone called him. His mother had found his egg abandoned on the farm and intrigued; she had taken it as her own. It was so much bigger than her eggs and had spots rather than boring old white. How excited she was for this egg to hatch. Surely, it would be the best of the bunch.

Day by day she carefully guarded her eggs, counting the weeks until her new ducklings would be born. "Why doesn't the time go faster," she wondered? "Why does the sun move so slowly across the sky?" She could hardly conceal her impatience.

Finally, after many days her eggs began to hatch and the barnyard animals gathered around to watch the big event. They always loved mama duck's ducklings and exclaimed with pleasure as each one came out of the egg. "Congratulations on a handsome duckling," mooed the cow. "What a beautiful golden hue she has," neighed the horse. "Your handsomest brood yet," crowed the rooster. The whole barnyard nodded in agreement. There was no question this was an exceptional brood of ducklings.

Mama duck glowed with pride at the kind words. Just think of what everyone would say when the spotted egg hatched! She would be the talk of the barnyard for months to come. How fortunate she had been to find this marvelous egg!

Then they heard it. The familiar cracking of a duckling coming into the world, but much to Mama's dismay out crawled the ugliest creature she had ever seen! His fuzzy down was a drab brown. His oversized bill dominated his homely face. His pitiful cries were hoarse and rough. Why, he was twice the size he should have been!

After a stunned silence, the barnyard animals began to slip away. "Sorry", mooed the embarrassed cow. "Sorry," neighed the embarrassed horse. "Sorry," crowed the embarrassed rooster. Everyone agreed that this duckling was the ugliest one they had ever seen. From that moment it was agreed that Sorry would be the name of this unfortunate fowl.

The days ahead were hard ones for poor Sorry. His mother still loved him of course, but his unsightly appearance made him an object of ridicule everywhere he went.

The cows refused to speak to him. The horses snickered when they saw him coming. The rooster made jokes about him to the chickens behind his back. Even his siblings mistreated him. They refused to swim with him or allow him to be in their games. "Go away Sorry," they would say. "No one wants you around. You're not one of us. You're a freak." How sad and lonely these words made Sorry's heart. Oh, how he longed for just one animal to be his friend.

One day Sorry couldn't take another insult. He made up his mind to run away from his life of sadness. He had been warned of how hard life was beyond the barnyard but surely it couldn't be worse than this. It would be better to do life by himself.

Far away he wandered until he came to a pond. Crawling deep into the cattails he put his beak under his wing and cried himself to sleep. He determined never to return to the sadness of the farm.

Summer passed and soon the trees began putting on their autumn colors. The mornings became chilly and ice began forming in the shallows of the pond. The sunlight grew weaker and a cold wind began bringing bitter snow from the north.

Cold, hungry, and frightened, Sorry began longing for his mama. He missed the warm nest and good food he had once enjoyed. Oh, how his heart yearned to return to the farm but the memories of unkind words held him back. No one wanted him around. The pain in his heart outweighed the discomfort of his body. He knew everyone was happier without him.

Then one winter day a farmer happened by the pond and saw Sorry half-frozen in the reeds. His kindly heart took pity on the bedraggled bird and he gently carried him to his warm farmhouse. His gentle hands cleaned the grimy feathers and all

The Ugly Duckling: From Page 11

through that cold winter Sorry lived in a crate behind the stove. The farmer and his wife supplied him with water and grain every day and most importantly they never made cruel jokes about his appearance. How Sorry loved living with that kind couple! Why did they not notice how ugly he was? He felt that he could stay in their home forever.

But as it does, the winter soon passed and the spring breezes began thawing the ground. Green shoots began pushing through the brown soil and songbirds began making their nests. It was time for Sorry to go back to the pond where he came from.

In spite of his misgivings of leaving the farmers home, Sorry's heart beat with excitement. It would be delightful to be in the fresh air again. He could already feel the cool water on his webbed feet and the wind upon his feathers. He could taste the fresh roots and shoots he loved so much.

But when he arrived at his pond, Sorry nearly cried with disappointment. His pond was already occupied by the most beautiful creatures he had ever seen. Graceful white geese glided through the blue water, their flutelike song rising on the morning breeze. Their song was so wild and beautiful it made Sorry's heart ache. Such creatures would never accept someone like him. How embarrassed he was to be in their presence. He turned to leave, his face hot with shame. Where would he go? What would he do?

Then to Sorry's amazement, silvery voices called out to him. "Hello, brother, please do not turn away. Why don't you come and join us?" "B-b-brother?" Sorry stammered. "J-join you? Oh, you don't want me to join you. I'm just an ugly duckling. Nobody except my mama has ever wanted me around." The swans laughed in amusement at Sorry's words. "You are not one of those silly ducks!" they cried. "Do you not know who you are? Look in the water at your reflection!"

As Sorry lowered his head to the water an amazing sight met his eyes, for he was not a duck at all! Over the winter he had grown into a beautiful swan, just like the magnificent creatures before him. No wonder he was different than the ducks! With a happy cry, he plunged into the pond to join his true family.

There are two lessons that this story teaches us. I hope you will learn from them both.

1. Do unto others as you want others to do unto you: Just like it was wrong for the barnyard animals to mistreat Sorry, it is cruel and unchristian to distance ourselves, make fun of, and ignore people who are different than us. Just because people have big ears or a funny nose is no reason to abuse them with unkind words and actions. Jesus wants us to love everyone regardless of their appearance and treat them as we want to be treated. The Christian way is to be friendly, and do what we can to meet any needs that people may have. After all, it could very easily be us in their shoes and they in ours. No one can choose their genes any more than the circumstances they are born into. Our duty is to thank God for what we have and then try to show the love of God to everyone we meet; just as Jesus did. Remember, that Jesus loves everyone and we are His hands and feet on this earth. Who in your life needs your attention today? What can you do to show them the love of Jesus? Please, don't let someone carry hurts down through their life because you refused to help them.

2. We are special to God: Sorry was wrong in thinking he was ugly and unlovable. He should never have listened to those who said such bad things about him. The truth was he was a special bird created for a specific purpose. It only took time and the right birds to help him understand that. Neither should we listen to people who criticize and make fun of us. Even if we aren't as beautiful on the outside as someone else, we still have gifts given to us by God and He loves us very much. He created us and welcomes us into His family. If we will become His child, He will assure us of His love and unfold His plan for our life. We will find love, acceptance, significance, peace, and joy in Him. The next time someone makes you feel bad about yourself, think about Jesus and all He has done for you. Also, remember that beauty really is only skin deep. A beautiful person on the outside can appear so ugly because of their inside, while a not-so-beautiful person on the outside can be truly beautiful because of what's on the inside. The people that matter most will recognize this and prefer you every time. Kindness, compassion, and character is so much better than pretty eyes or silky hair.

Kim Forsee is married to Rev. Tim Forsee. They live in Franklin with their children and pastor the FPHC.

Noblesville Report: From Page 9: Family Fall Festival took place Friday, September 16th. It was a great time of fun and fellowship for the church. The hayride was a success and the voices of children singing echoed through the community. They even added some Christmas songs. Also, on September 30th, our church hosted the Pilgrim Youth Rally and Lock-in. October was Pastor Appreciation month. We express great gratitude for our Senior Pastor John Forsee, his wife Martha and family, and for Pastor Joe Carey and his wife Janelle along with their family. We are truly blessed to have these godly leaders! Also, we express our condolences to the Forsee family due to the loss of Sister Martha Forsee's mother. October 18-23, we held our fall revival with Evangelist David Fulton and Song Evangelists the Jonathan Glick Family. We appreciated their ministries so much and thank God for His help. We praise God for new life. Rowan Scott Tomes arrived June 21, 2022, to Kevin and Tracy Tomes. He was then dedicated to Jesus on October 2; Also, Silas Joel Boardman was born to Brent and Kirsten Boardman September 22, 2022. We welcome both little ones and congratulate their parents. ~Dianne Campbell