



First
Presbyterian
Church
of Waynesboro, Virginia

The Columns *Online*

October 12, 2022 | Waynesboro, Virginia | *a newsletter supplement*

Episcopal Priest Becomes 4 Time Jeopardy! Champion

'I'm just a nerdy trivia buff kind of guy who wanted to play 'Jeopardy!' all my life'

By Emily McFarlan Miller

Religion News Service— “A priest, a truck driver and a grandma walk into a game show.”

It's not the set-up to a joke, but rather the contestants on one of the five “Jeopardy!” episodes in which the Rev. David Sibley appeared last week. Sibley, rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Walla Walla, WA, appeared on the beloved, long-running trivia competition Sept. 26-30, winning four straight episodes and \$79,098.

“It was fun, and that was all I wanted to begin with,” the 37-year-old priest told Religion News Service.

Continued.



“Jeopardy!” co-host Ken Jennings, left, and the Rev. David Sibley pose together on the set. Photo courtesy of Jeopardy! Productions.

Jeopardy, continued

Sibley grew up watching “Jeopardy!” in a small town where the show aired on one channel at 7 p.m. and another channel at 7:30 p.m., so he always got a second chance to play, he said. He started trying out for the show in college, he said, but finally got the call he’d been selected at a moment he was least prepared to play: while he was immersed in the Episcopal Church’s General Convention this summer in Baltimore. Certainly, he said, he never dreamed he’d win — not just once, but four times.

“Has anything in your pastoral or ecclesiastical training prepared you for this moment?” co-host Ken Jennings asked Sibley after his first win in an “Overheard on Set” video posted on the “Jeopardy!” YouTube channel.

“No, absolutely not,” Sibley said, noting he was in shock.

The most pressure he faces as a priest, he told Jennings, is “watching my mouth in certain situations to make sure I’m not saying something inexorably stupid” — though he agreed that skill served him well on “Jeopardy!”

The five episodes were filmed in a single day in August, and Sibley tweeted along with viewers at home when they finally aired last week.

More than anything, he said, he just wanted fans of the show to see he was a “normal person.”

He took some flak online for wearing his clerical collar during one episode, something he said he did at the encouragement of the show’s producers and didn’t feel was all that important either way. In one thread on Twitter, he shared his plan to donate 10% of



The Rev. David Sibley competes on “Jeopardy!”
Photo courtesy of Jeopardy! Productions

winnings to his church. In another, he tweeted, “This priest is affirming of the lives, loves, and vocations of LGBTQIA+ people.”

“So for anyone that needs to hear it from a priest: This priest loves you. But more than that? God loves you. Exactly as you are,” he added.

But, in the end, Sibley said appearing on “Jeopardy!” wasn’t about representing the church or building a platform to talk about all the things he cares about. It was just about his love for the game that bills itself as “America’s favorite quiz show.”

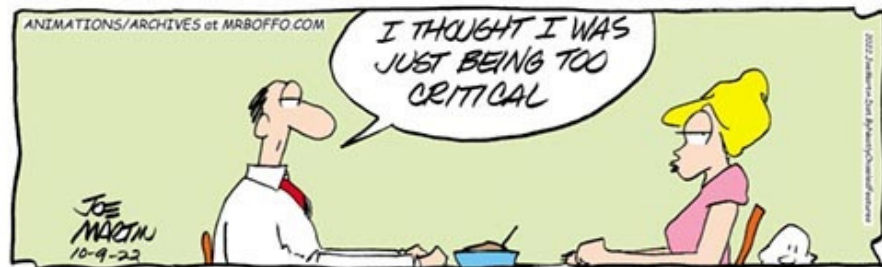
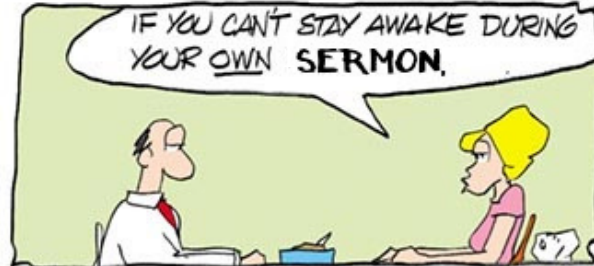
“I’m just a nerdy trivia buff kind of guy who wanted to play ‘Jeopardy!’ all my life,” he said “If I had gone in on that first day and gotten wiped off the board in third place, I would have been thrilled that I just had the opportunity to play. Instead, somehow it turned out I was pretty darn good.”

Our Worship Channels

click on the logos



First
Presbyterian
Church
of Waynesboro, Virginia



Worship This Week
Scripture lessons: Psalm 121
Luke 18:1-8

Sermon: Expectation and persistence.

Worship Info for October 16



Ravenscroft.

The opening hymn for Sunday 16 October will be *I To the Hills Will Lift Mine Eyes*, with text from Psalm 121. It is set to the tune DUNDEE, which first appeared in the 1615 edition of the Scottish Psalter. Just a few years later, in 1621, Thomas Ravenscroft (1592-1635) harmonized the tune and published it in his *Whole Booke of Psalmes*. The music is named for the city of Dundee, known as the “Scottish Geneva” during the Scottish Reformation.

The closing hymn for this Sunday will be *Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God* by Karen Lafferty (b. 1948). The American composer was born in Alamogordo, New Mexico. She composed the music for her most popular piece fifty years ago, in 1971.

Lafferty said that she was at the end of her financial rope – her savings depleted and a looming car payment. After attending a Bible study on Matthew 6:33, she was encouraged – and challenged by the scripture. She went home, wrote the tune, recorded it (on a tape recorder – remember those?!) and added the descant. The next Sunday, Lafferty taught the song to the congregation, where it caught on right away. She says that the commissions from the hymn have funded about forty percent of her mission support.



Lafferty.

Lafferty is currently working with the organization Youth With A Mission, which focuses on supporting young people in character-building through music and songwriting.

CARD SHOWER
for Lorain Kent's birthday
October 15

Address:
5001 Oak Avenue, Apt 405
Waynesboro VA 22980

This Week in History.



Beatle John Lennon born in
Liverpool, England.
October 9, 1940



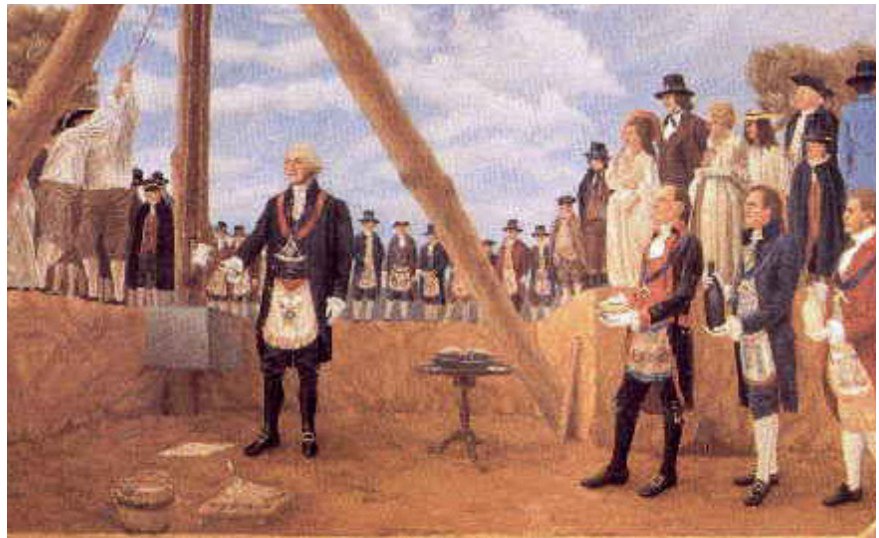
Vice President Spiro T. Agnew resigns amid
charges of income tax evasion on illegal payments
received while he was governor of Maryland and
Vice President.
September 10, 1973



First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt born
in New York City. The first presidential
spouse to hold a news conference, her
contributions continued long after her
husband's death, serving for many years as as
a U.S. delegate to the United Nations.
October 11, 1884



During a debate over colonialism in the United
Nations, Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev took
off his shoe and pounded his desk repeatedly.
October 12, 1960



President George Washington lays the cornerstone of the Presidential Mansion, later known
as the White House.
October 13, 1792



U.S. Air Force Captain Chuck Yeager breaks
the sound barrier, flying The Bell X-1 aircraft
"Glamorous Glennis" faster than Mach1.
October 14, 1947



Margaretha Geertruida Zelle MacLeod is executed for espionage by the French. Under the
stage name *Mata Hari*, the Belgian dancer and courtesan allegedly spied for the French
before being arrested as a German agent.
October 15, 1917

