



- May 1:** Ben Harris
May 4: Chuck Mooney, Clayton Walker
May 5: Bill Adams
May 8: Alan Whitt
May 9: Hunter Wright, Celia Osborne,
Peyton King
May 12: Grace Correll
May 13: Larry Maston
May 14: Chris Baugh, Randell Drayne,
Roger Wheeler
May 15: Sally Crawford, Frances Ussery
May 17: Jennifer Walker
May 18: Leslie Pope, John Bovender,
Grayson Mott, Valerie Joh
May 20: Bette Patton, Stewart Taylor,
Autumn Hagan
May 21: Kinsley Argabrite
May 22: Brenda Whitt
May 25: Dave Hafele
May 27: Tricia Argabrite, Colin Pendleton
May 31: Kathy Redwine

The story behind “Amazing Grace”

“Amazing Grace” is a very popular hymn, and many church goers (and non church goers) all over the world have likely heard this wonderful song and its lyrics. According to the Yale Institute of Sacred Music, “Amazing Grace” is one of the most beloved hymns in the entire English-speaking world, and, like many hymns, there is a story behind it.

The song was written in 1772 by John Newton. You may remember the opening of the hymn, and the line, “That saved a wretch like me.” Newton had a rough past, as many composers and historical figures did. He was a rebellious sailor who was forced into assisting a slave trader in West Africa before becoming a master of his own slave ships. The turning point for him, happened while sailing *the Greyhound*; a massive storm nearly sank the ship, causing him to fear for his life. As he faced possible death, he cried out to God for mercy, marking the beginning of his spiritual transformation. In 1754 he suffered a stroke and left the slave trade to become an Anglican Priest, advocating for abolition and working alongside William Wilberforce.

In 1772 he wrote the hymn for a New Year’s Day sermon, and it was later published in 1779 in the *Olney Hymns*. I can imagine, after all that Newton endured, how strong his faith became when I think of the lyrics: “I once was lost, but now I’m found; was blind but now I see.”

Amy



*Happy
Birthday!*

**Next First Press
Newsletter Deadline**

**May 18
June Newsletter**



JUNE | 12 | 6:00PM

DOORS OPEN AT 5:00

FORMAL DINING
ENTERTAINMENT
SILENT AUCTION
PRESENTATION

DERBY HAT CONTEST

TICKET COST \$50
TICKETS GO ON SALE
MAY 12TH

FORMAL WEAR NOT REQUIRED