



blueberry buckle (apr 8)
photo credit: savorysimple.net

THIS IS JUST TO SAY

by CHAD ASHBY

I have eaten
the pies
that were in
the Hutch

A few years ago, the online community rediscovered the quirky poetry of William Carlos Williams (1883-1963) and turned his iconic “This Is Just to Say” into memes about iceboxes and plums. I suspect Williams would have appreciated the way his art was being folded into the social media that now peppers our waking reality.

Williams enjoyed obscuring the lines between art and life. He was a physician by trade, and his poetry was often scribbled onto the backs of prescription pads or medical records between appointments with blue collar patients at his residence in Rochester, NY. He saw the poetic in the ordinary, the gladness in the mundane.

His life as a poet-physician blurred the hard line we often draw between art and non-art: *What if an SMS text was a poem? What if a doodle was artful? And is there an art to homemaking? Making spreadsheets? Driving? Mowing?*

At the wedding in Cana, Jesus showed that “His heart

was open even to the simple, artless merrymaking of some obscure and unlearned people.” Pondering the condescension of Christ in John’s Gospel, Alyosha of *Brother Karamozov* laughs at the thought:

“HE WORKED HIS FIRST MIRACLE TO HELP MEN’S GLADNESS . . . HE WHO LOVES MEN LOVES THEIR GLADNESS, TOO.”

We often think of the ministry of Christ as one long prelude to the cross. After all, Alyosha muses, “Was it to make wine abundant at poor weddings He had come down to earth?” Apparently, *yes*. Jesus first visited man in his joy, at a wedding feast, before he joined man in his sorrow, at the cross. And the story won’t come full-circle until we once again gather with him at his wedding feast.

As we wait, there is merrymaking to be made. The risen Christ encourages us by his presence and his provision to be artful in the everyday. He delights in our gladness—“the gladness of some poor, very poor, people . . . [so poor] they hadn’t wine enough even at a

wedding,” as Alyosha puts it. May we, the poor in this world, take our cue from Williams to scribble our poems and scratch bake our pies, trusting our Savior will take our water and turn it to wine.

Poetry Corner

by Fletcher Ashby (age 10)

ANGER
Anger is like
A wildfire
It spreads
It heats up
It dies.

WILLOW
A bending willow
Reminds me
To keep my watch—
For the truth
Gets bent
Every day.

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chocolate chip cookie sandwiches (apr 27)

S is for "Seed"

by DAVIS ASHBY (age 4)



(Peter's contribution to this month's Post was this torn page)

CHAD CLASSICS

THE CODE OF THE WOOSTERS

by P.G. WODEHOUSE

A young man gets into spiraling troubles involving a cow-creamer, a newt-admirer, a fascist thug, and his aunt. British gentleman Bertram Wooster has all the answers—none of them the right one.

Wodehouse's situational comedy is only bested by his cracking banter riddled with literary allusions and malapropisms. Will Wooster's faithful butler Jeeves be able to bail him out this time? Great as a read-aloud or pleasure read!

A GIANT PERFORMANCE FROM NOWELL

by GRIFFIN ASHBY (age 12)

The most exciting player in this year's NCAA tournament was Marquis Nowell of the Kansas State Wildcats. Despite standing only 5'8", Nowell commanded the court.

Some of his most valuable assets are high-flying drives, a three-point range that extends close to half-court, and incredible playmaking. His most memorable performance came in the Sweet Sixteen where he broke the single game record for assists with a whopping nineteen!

Even though his team's run came to an end in the Elite Eight against Florida Atlantic, Nowell capped things off with 32 points and 12 assists.



derby pies (apr 29)

MINDY'S PICKS THE SUMMER OF THE GREAT-GRANDMOTHER

by MADELEINE L'ENGLE

Recommended by my Aunt Cathy, this book is a reflection on the decline of L'Engle's elderly mother into dementia during a summer spent at the author's home. Part autobiography, part personal philosophy, the work interweaves daily happenings, family history, and reckonings with eternal meaning. Imaginative, loving, human—and worth the read just for the fascinating L'Engle family heritage.

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SAT APR 29
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THE LAST BUTTERMILK

BISCUIT

RECIPE YOU'LL NEED.

We've been baking homemade biscuits since we were newlyweds. We started with the standard BH&G recipe, but over the years, this has become our go-to.

A few notes. In a pinch, plain greek yogurt diluted with milk can substitute for buttermilk. Alternately, you can add 2 tablespoons of white vinegar to 2 cups of milk. Also, I prefer to cut my biscuits into squares, that way there's no wasted dough that has to be re-fashioned and re-rolled. (Those second-round biscuits are always tougher anyways.)

MAKE IT:

4 c all-purpose flour
2 tbsp baking powder
1/2 tsp baking soda
2 tsp kosher salt
12 tbsp butter cut into cubes
2 c buttermilk

Combine dry ingredients in a bowl. Add butter. Rub butter and flour mixture between your fingers until all cubes have been crushed.

Add buttermilk and stir with a wooden spoon or rubber spatula until just moistened.

BAKE IT:

Turn out dough onto a clean, lightly-floured counter. Pat dough together, and fold in half over itself gently a few times, turning 90 degrees between folds. Pat down into a square of dough about an inch thick. Cut in half both ways. Cut each half in half again both ways. You should have 16 little squares.

Space the biscuits a half-inch apart on a parchment-lined baking sheet and bake in a 450 degree oven for 10-12 minutes until golden on top.

(Makes 16 biscuits)

HISTORY MINUTE

by Teddy Ashby (age 8)

Marco Polo journeyed to China with his uncle and his dad. They went on the Silk Route to trade. When he got to China, he became the Khan's advisor.

They stayed 20 years but soon they wanted to go home. They got their chance when the King of Persia wanted a Mongol princess as his wife so the Polo family sailed with the Mongol princess to Persia and dropped her off and sailed home.

CROSS-STITCH

by Caroline Ashby (age 7)



KITCHEN ESSENTIAL:



Ancient folklore says Roman soldiers were sometimes paid in salt. It is a fact that our word *salary* comes from the Latin word *sal*: Salt.

The Romans were on to something, because kosher salt is an invaluable essential for any kitchen. Its coarse texture makes it easier to control as you season and sprinkle. Kosher salt can be used as a 1-to-1 replacement for table salt in recipes.

Salt is also a natural abrasive cleaner and sterilizer. Baked on mess or cast iron needing a good scrub? A wet paper towel, a tablespoon of Kosher salt, and some elbow grease will often do the trick.



“Still Life” by Fletcher Ashby (age 10)

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Do yourself a favor and get your year's pies taken care of...

ABOUT US: The Ashbys live in Greenville, SC, where Chad is instructor of Math, Lit, and Theology at Greenville Classical Academy. Mindy has been homeschooling for 8 years. The Ashby kids are Griffin, Fletcher, Teddy, Caroline, Davis, and Peter.



“Everything that is true and good is always full of forgiveness.”

—Brothers Karamazov

almond-orange biscotti (apr 13)



HAVING AN EVENT? WE BAKE TO ORDER!

Let us take care of dessert! We have baked for family gatherings, birthdays, wakes, block parties, and more.

Have a favorite from us? We'd be happy to bake to order. Want something special you haven't seen on our menu? We can probably accommodate.

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