

MOVING SPIRIT

Spring, 1997

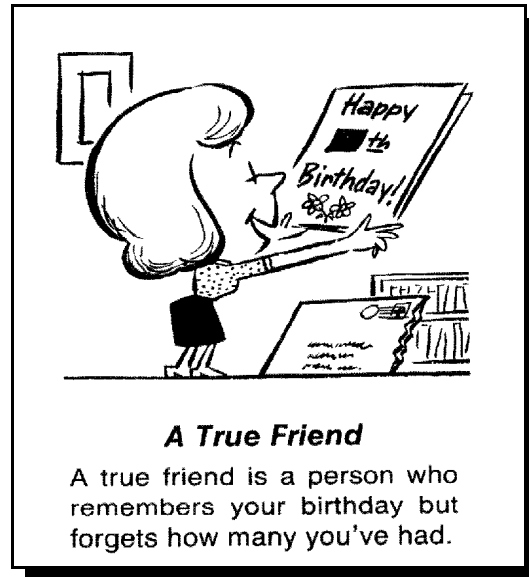
Eskaton Village Community Church

Pastor's Parcel

January was the first anniversary of EVCC. We thank God for blessing our past year. The cartoon isn't always true. While some middle-aged folk shy away from telling which birthday they're having, older people may be tempted to brag about their age. A Christian balance is to praise God for extending our days on earth by His grace and strength alone.

To celebrate birthdays, you must have a birth. Experiencing "new birth" by coming to Christ for forgiveness of sins and salvation is a birthday that each person has an individual choice about. We had no decision concerning our physical birthday, but God gives us total freedom for choosing or refusing spiritual birth. My prayer is that all who live at Eskaton will have that "new birth" before they enter the presence of the One Who offers it. This *Moving Spirit* has an article adapted from Billy Graham telling how anyone can know they have what the Bible calls spiritual "new birth." Also, I'm always ready to meet with anyone who wants to talk or pray about it. It is eternally important to be sure about.

This issue has a poem I've tried to send out for your birthdays. I wrote



it for my mother who loves "butterflies." I've missed some of your birthdays and haven't known others. This sends the poem to you all, and says, "I give up" on trying to be the cartoon's "true friend" by trying to keep up with EVCC birthday lists....

---Pastor David

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Parish Proclamations

Easter Sunday we hope to celebrate our Lord's resurrection in a special way by the dedication of our church paraments. We believe the amount for purchase will soon be in through memorial gifts. Parchment copies of the list of those being remembered by memorial will be given to the donors.

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My desire is to see others develop their pastoral and preaching skills. Once a month or so, we will have new faces in the pulpit. Please, pray that not only my own preaching, but the messages of those who visit, will be a source of enrichment to all who attend EVCC. -
-Pastor David

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Cassette copies of sermons in the tape lending library will now be kept only for 12 weeks. Betty MacKinnon (Box #215) serves as the librarian.

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People's Pulpit

Definitions

Atheism-- There is no God. There is no Higher Power (however, atheists are believers--they have chosen to believe that there is no One higher than them).

Agnosticism-- Maybe there is a God--maybe there isn't.

Deism-- A Supreme Being exists, but He doesn't interact with the world. God created the world and set life in motion. Then He let go and hasn't been heard from since.

Pantheism-- God is universal energy but is not a supreme intelligence. He is cosmic energy but doesn't judge, love, plan or empower. He's powerful but not intelligent and cannot think.

Theism-- God is an intelligent Person. He's the living, loving, thinking, planning Master of the world and still creates. He created a creature called a human being who, in a limited way is endowed with the divine potential to be

a creative thinker. You and I can think, we can choose, we can love, we are free to make decisions. We even have the mental power to imagine God's existence. We are persons. We have the innate ability to have faith. Jews, Muslims and Christians are theists. --
Robert Schuller

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How to Become a Christian

(adapted from Billy Graham)

The New Testament's central theme is God's love revealed through Christ's coming into the world, dying on the cross, and rising from the dead. Through Christ's death God offers us forgiveness for sins, and through His resurrection the promise of eternal life. Christ died and rose again for all the world, but to become a Christian is an individual choice to accept His offer.

Read the following Bible verses showing God's part and yours:

John 3:16--God's Love Revealed. God loves you and wants to bless you, making your life complete. He offers abundant life here and now, and eternal life which is His very own life.

Romans 3:23--Man is Sinful. The saying, "Well, we are just human--nobody is perfect," is right. When we acknowledge this truth, we can see our separation from God, for He is holy.

Romans 6:23--Sin Has a Penalty. To continue in sin will result in spiritual death, which is separation from God forever. The alternative is to personally receive God's free gift, which is pardon for sin and provision of life everlasting.

Romans 5:8--Christ Paid the Penalty.

You do not have to lead a "good" life before God will love you. God loves you even in your sin. He sent Christ to die in your place, paying the penalty for your sin so that you could be reconciled to Him.

Ephesians 2:8,9--Salvation is a Gift. Grace is undeserved favor. God by grace offers what you could never do for yourself. It's His gift--not to be worked for, but to be received by turning from your sins and believing that Jesus Christ died to pay for and deliver you from your sins.

John 1:12-- We Must Receive Christ. When you receive Christ, you become God's child. Jesus stands at the door of your heart and knocks (Revelation 3:2). Open the door and invite Him in. He's waiting to enter your life. Do so by using a prayer like the following:

"Dear Lord, I know I'm a sinner in need of Your forgiveness. I believe Christ died in *my* place to pay the penalty for *my* sin and that He rose from the dead. I now invite Jesus Christ into my life as my Savior. Thank You for making me Your child. Help me now live to please You.

Romans 10:13--Promises from God. When you receive Christ by calling on His name: your sins are forgiven (Colossians 1:14); you become God's child (John 1:12); you become heir to God's blessings (Romans 8:16-17); you now have eternal life (1 John 5:12-13). You become a Christian the moment you receive Christ. Don't trust feelings, for they change; but trust God's Word and believe His promises.

If doubts arise, review these verses so that you can say with assurance, "I know I have received Christ. God's says that I have eternal life."

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Pithy Pieces

Life has loveliness to sell,
All beautiful and splendid things:
Blue waves whitened on a cliff,
Soaring fire that always sings,
And children's faces looking up,
Holding wonder like a cup.

--Sara Teasdale

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In wonder-working things,
or some dusk aflame,
Men look at God
and fancy Him concealed;
But in earth's common things
He stands revealed,
While grass and flowers and stars
spill out His name.

--Minot J. Savage

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Praise's Portion

I Am Music

Servant and master am I: a servant of those dead and master of those living. Through me spirits immortal speak the message that makes the world weep, and laugh, and wonder, and worship. I tell the story of love, of hate, the story that saves and the story that damns. I am the incense upon which prayers float to heaven. One I serve as I serve all. I speak through the birds of the air, the insects, the crash of waters on rock-ribbed shores, the sighing of the wind

in trees, and I am even heard by the soul that knows me in the clatter of wheels on city streets. All men are my brothers: I am the father of the best that is in them. I am of them and they are of me. For I am the instrument of God.
--author unkn.

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Praise to the Holiest in the heights
And in the depths His praise:
In all his works most wonderful,
Most sure in all His ways.

--John Henry Newman

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Thanksgiving

Thank you for the tranquil night.
Thank you for the stars.
Thank you for the silence.
Thank you for the time You have
given me.
Thank you for life.
Thank you for grace.
Thank you for being there, Lord.
Thank you for listening to me, for
taking me seriously, for gathering my
gifts in your hands to offer them to
Your Father. Thank You.

--Michel Quast

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The kiss of the sun for pardon,
The song of the bird for mirth;
One is nearer God's heart in a garden
Than anywhere else on earth.

--Author unknown

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Prayer's Priorities

What Is Prayer?

Prayer is the soul's sincere desire,
Uttered or unexpressed;

The motion of a hidden fire
That trembles in the breast.

Prayer is the burden of a sigh,
The falling of a tear,
The upward glancing of the eye,
When none by God is near.

Prayer is the simplest form of speech
That infant's lips can try;
Prayer the sublimest strains that reach
The Majesty on high.

Prayer is the contrite sinner's voice,
Returning from his ways;
While angels in their songs rejoice,
And cry, "Behold, he prays!"

Prayer is the Christian's vital breath,
The Christian's native air,
His watchword at the gates of death:
He enters heaven with prayer.

The saints in prayer appear as one
In word and deed and mind,
While with the Father and the Son
Sweet fellowship they find.

Nor prayer is made by man alone,--
The Holy Spirit pleads,
And Jesus on the eternal throne
For sinners intercedes.

O Thou by Whom we come to God,
The Life, the Truth, the Way!
The path of prayer Thyself hast trod:
Lord, teach us how to pray!

---James Montgomery

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Poetry's Place

Happy Birthday, Butterfly!

One more year of caterpilling
Up the stems to life's cocoons:
Our slow task of wiggle-worming
Passed another dozen moons...

"Happy Birthday" is a measure
Of the leaves that we have chewed
From the bounty of God's treasure:
Daily grace has been our food.

We're not really getting older
We're just growing for our change,
When our beauty will be bolder
With great wings of awesome range.

One more year of earthly feeding
As our wintry sleep draws nigh.
Happy Birthday! while you're waiting
To become God's butterfly.

--- David L. Hatton, 11/26/88

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Pearls of Prudence

Negative words and thoughts destroy
only myself. Happiness is a habit I
will develop. Problems bother me
only to the degree I permit them to.

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Faith is the bird that sings to greet the
dawn while it is still dark.

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Let us live in such a way that when
we die our love will survive and
continue to grow.

--the Prayer Tree

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Precious Principles

(editor's note: God must know we
really need Isaiah 43:1-3; two
different people turned in this passage
for this issue)

Fear not for I have redeemed you--I
have called you by your name--you
are mine. -- Isaiah 43:1

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When you go through deep waters
and great trouble, I will be with you.

When you go through rivers of
difficulty, you will not drown! When
you walk through the fire of
oppression, you will not be burned
up; the flames will not consume you.

For I am the LORD, your God, the
Holy One... your Savior.

--Isaiah 43:2-3, NLT

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Hope Tiding

I never knew a storm so gray
It failed to have its clearing day.
I never knew a night so black
Light failed to follow on its track.
I never knew such bleak despair
That there was not a rift somewhere.

I never knew an hour so drear
Love could not fill it full of cheer.

--John Kendrick Bangs

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Life Forever

Life is life forever! To be is eternal being.
Every man that has died is at this instant in
full possession of all his faculties, in the
intensest exercise of all his capacities,
standing somewhere in God's great
universe, ringed with a sense of God's
presence, and feeling in every fiber of his
being that life which comes after death is

not less real but more real, not less great
but more great, not less full or intense but
more full and intense, than the mingled life
which, lived here on earth, was a center of
life surrounded with a crust and

circumference of mortality. The dead are
the living. They lived while they died, and
after they die they live on forever.

---Alex Maclaren.

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In Memory of Rose Teale

(Resurrection hope is the Easter message shining forth from our Lord's own resurrection. As we approach the Easter season, we remember with hope the passing of our dear sister Rose Teale. The following poem, read at her memorial service, was requested for this issue of *Moving Spirit*. I wrote it a little after I discovered that I was too late to see her off on her last trip.)

TRAVELING ROSE

You'd told me about your journeys
Swarms of push-pin markers peppered your map of Earth:
Places your soul-mate and you had visited together.
Retired teacher, you weren't the childless woman they thought,
But mother of thousands, and grandmother, too,
And always planning the next voyage.

You came to prayer first, of all the Village,
When we began to meet before the service,
And came one day asking prayer for your trip:
"As I go to Colorado for my family reunion."
We prayed, and you went, with a clean bill of health.

But that day when, short-of-breath from walking,
You heard the last sermon you would hear from me,
I worried about your condition; but not you . . .
No, you were looking forward to another cruise soon.
But you hesitated, Rose, and had us wondering awhile.
Would you go? You had me thinking you would stay.

But I knew how you loved to travel.
So, I was certain I would get to say good-bye,
Sure that I would see you off this afternoon.
But when I got there, God's plane had left the hospital,
Soaring away with you waving farewell to us all.
And I was left staring up into fresh, clear, blue skies
That had been a little overcast earlier this morning.

--David L. Hatton, 2/2/97