

MOVING SPIRIT

January, 1999

Eskaton Village Community Church

Pastor's Parcel

Bil Keane of *Family Circus* made this cartoon in tribute to his friend, Erma Bombeck, who died in April of 1996. As a pallbearer at her funeral, he said, "I'm sure Erma would find it laughable that, after all her columns about losing weight, they needed ten men to carry her casket." She once wrote a column about heaven in which she speculated that "it's probably just one big *Jeopardy!* game in the sky, where all day long you struggle to remember names."

Comments by the above humorists depict the healthy attitude about eternity that believers should have. Christians hurt as others do when losing loved ones. But our hope helps us see the lighter side of death. We're headed for "joy unspeakable and full of glory" in Heaven's eons to come. True, God will have to start with a box of Kleenex. His promise to relieve our tears and sorrows, are in both the *Old Testament*, "he will swallow up death forever. The Lord God will wipe away all tears." Isa 25:8 (TLB), and in the New Testament, "He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." Rev 21:4 (NIV)



Earthly life is temporary. Recalling that helps us laugh in its midst. We may even find ourselves someday rolling with laughter on golden streets, remembering how seriously we used to take ourselves down here. Yes, let's grieve for all we're worth! It's God's gracious gift for coping with a temporary "good-bye." But let's remember the fun of the past, and the fun in store in the future. --Pastor David

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Parish Proclamations

Back to the Music Room

After a congregational vote (21-8), we will be moving our church services back to the Music Room, starting Feb.7th. Some comments brought up in church committee discussion were:

--we haven't grown larger in size since moving to the auditorium,
--the auditorium can be drafty at times,
--the Music Room is "cozier" and nearer in location to most people.

Our apologies to those who love having church in the auditorium. Change is not easy, and if we start running beyond the Music Room's limit of 48, we will have to think about change again.

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The ALPHA Course

The Church of England is having a major revival through a program called *ALPHA*, a series of talks on video addressing "The Questions of Life." EVCC's bi-weekly small **FIRE** group (*Fellowship-Inspiration-Renewal-Encouragement*) is considering using the first half of this year's meetings to show these video-talks on answers to basic questions about the Christian faith. We meet at 1:00 PM every other Friday (1/29, 2/12, 2/26, etc.), but the location often moves to different apartments. Contact Genevieve Goeltz (482-9231) for the specifics.

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Prayer's Priorities

While bells are ringing midnight clear,
Three gifts I ask for this new year:
Faith is the pilgrim staff I crave
To keep me strong-- to keep me brave.
Hope is the candle's pinpoint star
To lead me on the path afar.
Love is the mantle I would wear--
Heart-warming garments lined with prayer.

Father God, with these priceless three
Enrich the days Thou sendest me!

-- Marie Barton

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Dear Jesus, as You healed people in the long ago and gave them peace, heal me now. Give me fully of Thy forgiveness. Help me to forgive myself. Separate me from all my sins and let me know that You do not hold them against me. Set me free from them. Then let Thy peace flow into my mind, into my soul, and into my body. Amen.

-- Norman Vincent Peale

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Sometimes, Lord, I wonder if I will leave a mark on this earth. Show me where I am needed, put my energy to work so that it will matter that I have lived. Amen.

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Talk to Him

Talk to Him,

soon as you open your eyes,
Thank Him for every new day,
Tell Him you love Him,
throughout every hour,
Don't be too busy to pray.
Tell Him good night,
when you lie down to sleep,
Ask His forgiveness if there
Is something you feel
that you shouldn't have done,
Go to Him often in prayer.

Talk to Him,

make Him a part of your life,
Include Him in all that you do.
He knows the heartaches
you've learned how to hide,

The things you are going through.
He knows all your questions,
but better than that,
He has the solutions, too . . .
So talk to the Lord,
and know in your heart,
. . . He's waiting to talk to you!
--Grace E. Easley

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What if God was too busy to listen
as much as we say
we're too busy to pray?

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Live the Way You Pray

I knelt to pray when day was done,
And prayed: "Oh Lord, bless everyone;
Lift from each saddened heart the pain
And let the sick be well again."
And then I woke another day
And carelessly went on my way.

The whole day long I did not try
To wipe a tear from any eye;
I did not try to share the load
Of any sister on the road;
I did not even go to see
The ailing woman just next door.
Yet once again when day was done,
I prayed "Oh Lord, bless everyone."
But as I prayed, into my ear
There came a voice that whispered
clear,
"Pause, hypocrite, before you pray;
Whom have you tried to bless today?"

"God's sweetest blessings always go
By hands that serve Him here below."
And then I hid my face and cried,

"Forgive me, God, for I have lied;
Let me but live another day,
And I will live the way I pray."

--Author Unknown

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I got up early one morning
And rushed right into the day.
I had so much to accomplish
That I didn't have time to pray.
Problems just tumbled around me,
And heavier became each task.
"Why doesn't God help me?" I
wondered.

He answered, "You didn't ask."
I wanted to see joy and beauty,
But the day went on gray and bleak.
I wondered why God didn't show me.
He said, "But you did not seek."
I tried to come into God's presence;
I tried all my keys at the lock.
God gently and lovingly chided,
"My child, you did not knock."

I woke up early this morning
And paused before entering the day;
I had so much to accomplish
That I had to take time to pray!

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Pithy Pieces

"THE BIBLE ACCORDING TO EVE"
reminded me of Dorothy L. Sayers's
(1893-1957) paragraph from *Unpopular
Opinions*. I quote— "Perhaps it is no
wonder that the women were first at the
Cradle and last at the Cross. They had
never known a man like this
Man—there had never been such
another. A prophet and teacher who
never nagged at them, never flattered or

coaxed or patronized; who never made arch jokes about them; never treated them either as "The women, God help us!" or "The ladies, God bless them!"; who rebuked without querulousness and praised without condescension; who took their questions and arguments seriously; who never mapped out their sphere for them; never urged them to be feminine or jeered at them for being female—who had no ax to grind and no uneasy male dignity to defend; who took them as he found them and was completely unself-conscious."

--Margaret Main (Waverly, Iowa)

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Lent

As your Lenten discipline, don't just give something up, take something on.

Fast and feast at the same time.

Fast from destructive attitudes and closed minds; feast on openness.

Fast from complaining and criticizing; feast on praise.

Fast from self-pity; feast on joy.

Fast from resentment; feast on contentment.

Fast from jealousy; feast on compassion.

Fast from pride; feast on humility.

Fast from "pious"ness; feast on holiness.

Fast from selfishness; feast on serving others.

Fast from doubt; feast on faith.

Fast from fear; feast on hope.

Fast from hate; feast on love.

(Taken from *Fasting and Feasting* by Kathleen V. Price)

Poetry's Place

I heard my Lord a'calling,
a'knocking at my door;

I ran with joy to answer Him,
flung wide the door to let Him in.

But He just stood there smiling,
a'waiting at my door.

"Come in, come in, dear Lord," I cried--

"why don't You enter in?"

And then I saw the reason--
with shame I bowed my head:

I stood in the open door

I barred my Savior's way!

As I open the door to each new day
and ask You again to come in,

Oh please, dear Lord, remind me--
remind *ME* to stand aside!

--E. Meagher - July, 1998

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Let me hold lightly

Things of this earth;

Transient treasures,

What are they worth?

Moths can corrupt them,

Rust can decay;

All their bright beauty

Fades in a day.

Let me hold lightly

Temporal things,

I, who am deathless,

I, who wear wings!

Let me hold fast, Lord,

Things of the skies,

Quicken my vision,

Open my eyes!

Show me Thy riches,

Glory and grace,

Boundless as time is,
Endless as space!
Let me hold lightly
Things that are mine--
Lord, Thou hast giv'n me
All that is Thine!
--Martha S. Nicholson
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Pearls of Prudence

The smallest good deed is better than
the grandest good intention.
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If we do not do the running in little
ways, we shall do nothing in the crisis!
-- Oswald Chambers

When God forgives your sin, He buries
it in the deepest sea, and puts up a "no
fishing" sign.
--Corrie ten Boom
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Where Christ forgives, He also forgets.
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God does not comfort us to make us
comfortable but to make us comforters.
-- J. Henry Jowett
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All created things are living in the Hand
of God -- Jean P. de Caussade
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There is always a time limit to the darkness
we face. When God's purpose is
accomplished, He brings fresh light.
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Christ's victory can be yours if you are
willing to carry His banner.
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ANYWAY

People are unreasonable, illogical and
self-centered,

LOVE THEM ANYWAY

If you do good, people will accuse you
of selfish ulterior motives,

DO GOOD ANYWAY

If you are successful, you will win false
and true enemies,

SUCCEED ANYWAY

The good you do will be forgotten
tomorrow,

DO GOOD ANYWAY

Honesty and frankness make you
vulnerable,

**BE HONEST AND FRANK
ANYWAY**

What you spent years building may be
destroyed overnight,

BUILD ANYWAY

People really need help, but may attack
if you help them,

HELP PEOPLE ANYWAY

Give the world the best you have and
you'll get kicked in the teeth

**GIVE THE WORLD THE BEST
YOU'VE GOT ANYWAY**

--Mother Teresa
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Pleasurable Pastime

Life Begins at 80

I have good news for you. The first 80
years are the hardest. The second 80 are
a succession of birthday parties.

Once you reach 80, everyone wants to
carry your baggage and help you up the
steps. If you forget your name or
anybody else's name, or an appointment,

or your own telephone number, or promise to be three places at the same time, or can't remember how many grandchildren you have, you need only explain that you are 80.

Being 80 is a lot better than being 70. At 70, people are mad at you for everything. At 80, you have a perfect excuse, no matter what you do. If you act foolishly, it's your second childhood. Everybody is looking for symptoms of softening of the brain.

Being 70 is no fun at all. At that age, they expect you to retire to a house in Florida and complain about your arthritis, and you ask everybody to stop mumbling because you can't understand them. (Actually, your hearing is about 50 percent gone.)

If you survive until you are 80, everybody is surprised that you are still alive. They treat you with respect just for having lived so long. Actually they seem surprised that you can walk and talk sensibly.

So please, folks, try to make it to 80. It's the best time of life. People forgive you for anything. If you ask me, life begins at 80. --Frank Laubach

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Precious Principles

Christ on My Daily Round

I pray each morn that I may not be blind
To Christ, Who moves that day among my
kind.

I dare not turn a hungry man away,
Lest I be leaving Him unfed to-day.

I dare not slight some tattered, unclothed

one.

Lest I should fail to warm and clothe God's
Son.

I cannot pass one languishing in bed.

Lest it be Jesus lying there instead.

Each weary burden-bearer on the road

Shall have my help, for it might be His load.

And every lonely stranger that I see

I must greet kindly for it might be He.

I shall walk softly on the road to-day.

I could meet Christ down any travelled way.

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RULE!

Stay in tune, stay in touch,

Think big, love much.

Stay light, don't be grim.

Eyes on Christ -- all for Him.

What trouble? What strife?

Give self! Give life!

Get tough! Get wild!

Stay loose, like a child!

Eat right, exercise --

Trim that belly down to size!

Play songs, play pranks,

Laugh lots, give thanks!

Be humble, be least,

Be a bard, be a priest,

Heed the King's high call!

All of One, one for All!

--Thomas Renaud

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A friend is a push when you're stopped,

a word when you're lonely,

a guide when you're searching, a smile

when you're sad, and a song when

you're glad.