

MOVING SPIRIT

March, 2002

Eskaton Village Community Church

Pastor's Parcel

At Eskaton Village, the beginning of 2002 was marked by an unprecedented number of residents departing from this life into the next. My own mother, Lois Ann, though not a resident, attended church here since moving to Sacramento last year and was also in that number.

There are legacies left by loved ones that will never be forgotten. Something my mother left me was the powerful words: "*Only one life, 'Twill soon be past; Only what's done for Christ will last.*" I will carry that truth and try to live be it the rest of my days.

But I will also remember another legacy: the promise she held to in the symbol of the butterfly. Butterflies were, to her, not just pretty parts of nature, but a promise of God for future glory after this earthly life. Caterpillar life finally must come to an end, but it's not a real death, only a metamorphosis, a change from a lowly state of being into another one, much more beautiful, mobile and free. It was the promise of resurrection, and her focus on passing from this life was not sadness, but anticipation of this glorious transformation that awaited her.

Death seems so final on this side of



eternity, but God gives us hints of hope. An array of symbols pop up and out at us during spring, reminding that the end of today's life is not the end. We have in Christ a *butterfly* future beyond our caterpillar journey* here. *(see *Poetry's Place*)

In anticipating spring, let's remember our resurrection hope, celebrated during this Easter season through our risen Savior, Jesus Christ.

-- Pastor David

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Parish Proclamations

The Ten Commandments:

...from England, an award-winning *video series*, with video-host Adrian Snell, starts Thurs., March 14th in the TV-Room,

from 10:15 to 11:15 AM. Each ½-hour video will explore one of the Commandments in order, covering its ancient biblical background and its contemporary impact and relevance for today's world. A short period of time will follow the video for discussion and questions. The series lasts, of course, for 10 weeks, ending May the 16th. All Eskaton residents are invited.

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Personal Pulpit

At a busy intersection in New York City, a gallon can fell from a passing truck, spilling milk all over the intersection. The policeman halted traffic while the driver retrieved the can.

The policeman was about to blow his whistle for the GO signal, when a small white cat crept out on the road and started lapping up the milk. The whistle remained unblown, traffic stood still, and the light changed to green three times.

Only after the cat had drunk its fill and returned to the sidewalk did the patrolman give the signal for traffic to proceed.

Experience is not what happens to you; it what you do with what happens to you.
--from Sharing Our Mission

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Are We Reading Our Bibles?

They lie on the table side-by-side,
The Holy Bible and the TV Guide.
One is well worn and shared with pride.
Not the Bible, but the TV Guide.
One is used daily to help folks decide...
No, not the Bible, but the TV Guide.
As pages are turned, what shall they see?

Oh, what does it matter, turn on the TV.
So they open the book in which they confide...

No, not the Bible, but the TV Guide.
The Word of God is seldom read.
Maybe a verse before falling in the bed.
Exhausted and sleepy, tired as can be,
Not from Bible reading, from watching TV.
So then back to the table side-by-side,
Lie the Holy Bible and the TV Guide.
No time for prayer, no time for the Word,
The plan of salvation is seldom heard.
But forgiveness of sin, so full and free,
Is found in the Bible, not on TV.

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Pithy Pieces

Everyday holds the possibility of a
miracle.

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Music is the art of the prophets, the only art that can calm the agitations of the soul: it is one of most magnificent and delightful presents God has given us.

--Martin Luther

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As in nature, as in art, so in grace; it is rough treatment that gives souls, as well as stones, their luster. The more the diamond is cut, the brighter in sparkles; and in what seems hard dealing, there God has no end in view but to perfect his people. --Guthrie

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There is no scale on earth
To measure what a friend is worth.
--Emerson

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"It takes no brains to be an atheist. Any

stupid person can deny the existence of a supernatural power because man's physical senses cannot detect it. But there cannot be ignored the influence of conscience, the respect we feel for moral law, the mystery of first life...or the marvelous order in which the universe moves about us on this earth. All these evidence the handiwork of the beneficent Deity. For my part that Deity is the God of the Bible and of Jesus Christ, His Son.

--Dwight D. Eisenhower

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Praise's Portion

Lord,

it is night,

The night is for stillness.

Let us be still in Your presence.

It is night after a long day.

What has been done has been done;

what has not been done has not been done;

let it be.

The night is dark.

Let our fears of the darkness of the world and our own lives rest in You.

The night is quiet.

Let the quietness of your peace enfold us,

all dear to us,

and all who have no peace.

The night heralds the dawn.

Let us look expectantly to a new day,
new joys,

new possibilities.

In Your name we pray. Amen.

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Prayer's Priority

Prayer is like "calling home."

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The Clown's Prayer

Lord, as I stumble through this life, help me to create more laughter than tears, dispense more happiness than gloom, spread more cheer than despair. Never let me become so indifferent that I will fail to see the wonder in the eyes of a child or the twinkle in the eyes of the aged. Never let me forget that my total effort is to cheer people, make them happy and forget at least for a moment all the unpleasant things in their lives. And, Lord, in my final moment, may I hear You whisper; "When you made My people smile, you made Me smile."

-- from Holy Humor

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Poetry's Place

(this poem captures the theology of butterflies taught me by my mother who died on Feb. 9th -- this was a birthday poem I wrote for her.-- Pastor David)

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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LOVE --*author unknown*

Love

puts the music in laughter,
the beauty in song,
the warmth in a shoulder,
the gentle in strong...

Love

puts the magic in memories,
the sunshine in skies,
the gladness in giving,
the starlight in eyes...

Love

puts the fun in together,
the sad in apart,
the hope in tomorrow,
the joy in a heart.

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Pearls of Prudence

God has promised
He'd always be there
To heal you with His gentle touch
And keep you in His care.

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Riches prick us with a thousand troubles
in getting them, as many cares in
preserving them, and yet more anxiety in
spending them, and with grief in losing

them.

--St. Francis of Assisi

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People gather bundles of sticks to build
bridges they never cross.

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When you were born, you were crying
and everyone around you was smiling.

Live your life so that when you die,
you're the one who is smiling and
everyone around you is crying.

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Lost, somewhere between sunrise in
sunset, sixty golden minutes.

Each set with sixty diamond seconds.
No reward is offered for they are gone
forever. --Horace Mann

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Do you love life? Then do not
squandered time for that is the stuff life
is made of. --Franklin

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Pleasurable Pastime

If God Should Go on Strike!

It's just a good thing God above
Has never gone on strike
Because He wasn't treated fair
Or things He didn't like.

If He had ever once sat down
And said "That's it! I'm through!
I've had enough of those on earth,
So this is what I'll do.

"I'll give my orders to the sun,
'Cut off your heat supply!
And to the moon, 'Give no more light,
And run your oceans dry!"

"Then, just to really make it tough
And put the pressure on,
'Turn off the air and oxygen
Till every breath is gone."

Do you know He'd be justified
If fairness were the game,
For no one has been more abused
Or treated with disdain

Than God, and yet He carries on
Supplying you and me
With all the favors of His grace
And everything, for free!

Men say they want a better deal,
And so on strike they go.
But what a deal we've given God,
Whom everything we owe.

We don't care who we hurt
Or harm to gain the things we like,
But what a mess we'd all be in
If God should go on strike!

--Author unknown

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Precious Principles

Lessons From Geese

Fact: As each goose flaps its wings, it creates an "uplift" for the birds that follow. By flying in "V" formation, the whole flock adds 71% greater flying range than if each bird flew alone.

Lesson: People who share a common direction and sense of community can get where they are going quicker and easier, because they are traveling on the thrust of one another.

Fact: When a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of flying alone, and quickly gets back into formation to take advantage of the "lifting power of the bird immediately in front.

Lesson: If we have as much sense as a goose, we will stay in formation with those who are headed where we want to go and be willing to accept their help, as well as give ours to others.

Fact: When the lead goose gets tired, it rotates back into the formation and another goose flies to the point position.

Lesson: It pays to take turns doing the hard tasks and sharing leadership. As with geese, people are interdependent on each other's skills, capabilities and unique gifts, talents or resources.

Fact: The geese flying in formation honk from behind to encourage those in front to keep up their speed.

Lesson: We need to make sure our honking is encouraging. In groups where there is encouragement the production is greater. The power of encouragement (to stand by one's heart or core values and encourage the heart and core values of others) is the quality of honking we seek.

Fact: When a goose gets sick, wounded or shot down, two geese drop out of the formation and follow it down to help and protect it. They stay with it until it is able to fly again or dies. Then they launch out on their own, with another formation or catch up with the flock.

Lesson: If we have as much sense as geese we too will stand by each other in difficult times as well as when we are strong.

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Life is so short -- if we suffer a little less
or a little more, that is no great thing,
when we keep our sight on the kingdom
that will last forever. --François Fenelon

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The faithful soul walks in a wonderful and
lofty way, leading the senses after it as a
person with sight might lead a blind
person. --Mechthild of Magdeburg

Past Pathways

Circuit Riders

The circuit rider was an important
figure in pioneer times in America. There
were two kinds of circuit riders. One was
a religious man who rode a circuit (regular
route) conducting services. The other was
a judge who rode a circuit hearing cases.
Either kind of circuit might cover great
distances.

Preachers, often called backwoods
preachers, began riding circuits in what is
now the United States during the 1760's.
John Wesley, founder of the Methodist
movement in Great Britain, sent several
lay preachers (people not ordained as
ministers) to preach the gospel in
America. Famous early circuit riders
included Francis Asbury, one of the first
Methodist bishops in the United States,
and Peter Cartwright, a pioneer preacher
in Kentucky and Illinois.

Judges began riding circuits in 1790.
Congress divided the 13 states into three
circuits, with two Supreme Court justices
appointed to hear cases in each circuit.
This system was changed when more
states joined the Union and the Supreme

Court had more work to do. Many state
judges also rode circuits. Lawyers usually
traveled with the judges and would argue
cases brought to the court. Abraham
Lincoln spent several years riding circuits
as a lawyer in Illinois. --*World Book
Encyclopedia*

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DEAD POETS

Across ten thousand days and nights,
Across a million, bow your head
To read the hearts, the depths and
heights:

The poetry of those long dead.

You read their joy, you feel their smile,
You sense their pain and touch their
tears.

You lose your soul in theirs awhile
And dreams their dreams and fear their
fears.

What scientific fools have read
In fossil fragments is a lie . . .
We've not surpassed the ancient dead,
Evolved beyond our common tie.

God placed within the human heart
In every age familiar strings
That vibrate to the poet's art:
Their visions live, their voice still sings.

-- David L. Hatton, 5/14/92

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Ave., Sacramento, CA 95838)