

# MOVING SPIRIT

February, 2004

## Eskaton Village Community Church

### Pastor's Parcel

"*The Lord is my shepherd...*" begins probably the most popular Psalm in the Bible. That familiar phrase is dear to the human heart for a reason. We all long to know that, in the midst of our often risky and stressful journeys through life, God is guarding and guiding us. The older we grow, the more consolation that belief brings us: *The Lord is my shepherd.*

In 1999, the son of Marge D'Spain (one of our newer residents at Eskaton) drew this portrayal of Jesus, the Good Shepherd. It captures nonverbally His familiar imperative, "*Come, follow me.*" He looks straight at you, speaking with His eyes. But on that holy, human face, is His look a command or an invitation? It's actually both....

Lent is near (Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>). It too silently calls Christians to join Christ for 40 days in the desert of self-denial and fasting, mere tokens of the spiritual depth that ought to mark all our days on earth. Our obedience to the Lenten call proclaims Jesus not just as the Savior to honor, but as the Lord to obey and follow, as sheep follow their shepherd.

But for others, it's an invitation to take God's offer of a fresh start at life through new birth in Christ. Both Christians and



those on the brink of faith can answer that look caught so well by Mr. D'Spain. A Lenten "yes" denies that this world is the soul's real pastureland, and affirms that Jesus is the Shepherd Lord who is truly leading us home. -- *Pastor David*

### Parish Proclamations

#### **Special Meetings at Eskaton**

From Sun., February 15<sup>th</sup> thru Wed. the 18<sup>th</sup>, **Eleanor Lancaster** is coming to speak at Eskaton Village. Sister Eleanor's ministry spans more than 50 years in churches (Non-denominational, Protestant, Catholic) and in groups such

as Full Gospel Businessmen and Women's Aglow. A graduate of LIFE Bible College in L.A., she has served across the country in evangelism and radio ministry. She has also taught Bible at the Sweetwater Bible College in Arizona, where she now resides. Her Spirit-filled ministry includes prayer for healing, a dynamic that has blessed both individuals and churches where she has ministered.

On Sunday the 15<sup>th</sup> she will speak at both services of EVCC.(the 10:00 AM service will be held in the Auditorium). That afternoon she will bring the Vespers message at 4:00 PM. The rest of the meetings will be at 7:00 PM, Mon., Tue. and Wed. (in lieu of the regular Wednesday Night Bible Study).

**Special informal times of prayer** will also be held daily at 2 PM (Mon. thru Wed.) in Meeting Room A-214, not far from where she will be staying in a studio apartment. Hopefully you will also get to know Eleanor better as she will be taking meals in the Dining Room as the guest of other residents.

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### **40 Days of Purpose**

Thousands of churches of various denominations participated last year in the 40-Days of Purpose program based on the best-selling book, *The Purpose-Driven Life* by Rick Warren. Many have said this book is destined to become a classic on the Christian life.

The book is read a chapter a day for 40 days and discussed on a weekly basis in small group meetings after a video

where Rick Warren gives a short overview to help the discussion. There is also an audio-tape edition of the book for those who are not able to read print.

There will be 6 Friday meetings after Lent and before Easter (3/5,3/12,3/19, 3/26,4/2,4/9) where these videos will be shown & discussed. Also, the sermons for the Lenten season at EVCC will follow the sections covered in the book.

At the time of this writing, we are trying to secure copies of *The Purpose-Driven Life* at a discount rate for residents of Eskaton. The times and locations of the video discussions will also be forthcoming.

## *Personal Pulpit*

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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FANNY CROSBY (the famous blind hymn-writer who wrote over 8000 hymns, more than any other Christian in history) wrote this at age 9....

Oh, what a happy child I am,  
Although I cannot see!  
I am resolved that in this world  
Contented I will be!  
How many blessings I enjoy  
That other people don't!  
So weep or sigh because I'm blind,  
I cannot -- and I won't!

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"If you really understand that salvation calls us to a passionate interaction with a hurting world, then perhaps instead of being bored to tears, you would be moved to them." --Jim Wilson

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God does not always heal the physical body but always heals the spirit of those who surrender to His will.

### *Pithy Pieces*

So many gentle friends are near,  
One can scarcely see,  
I should never feel alone  
Wherever I may be.

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"God give me strength to face a fact though it slay me." -- Thomas Huxley

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The majority of us are for free speech only when it deals with those subjects concerning which we have no intense convictions. -- Edmund B. J. Chaffee

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A great many people think they are thinking when they are merely rearranging their prejudices. -- William James

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Love that goes up is worship  
Love that goes outward is affection  
Love that stoops is grace.

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Willful waste makes woeful want,  
And I may live to say,  
"Oh! How I wish I had the bread  
That once I threw away!"

\* \* \* \* \*

"How can I know God is real?  
"How can He be made real when

uninvited?"

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### *Praise's Portion*

A sacrifice of praise will always cost you something. It will be a difficult thing to do. It requires trading in our pride, our anger, and most valued of all, our human logic. We will be compelled to voice our words of praise firmly and precisely, even as our logic screams that God has no idea what he's doing. Most of the verses written about praise in God's Word were penned by men and women who faced crushing heartaches, injustice, treachery, slander, and scores of other intolerable situations.

-- Joni Eareckson Tada

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Does every breath you draw breathe a prayer? A praise to Him? Filter everything through the same question: Will this bring glory to God or to me?

### *Prayer's Priority*

This is another day, O Lord. I know not what it will bring forth, but make me ready, Lord, for whatever it may be. If I am to stand up, help me to stand gravely. If I am to sit still, help me to sit quietly. If I am to lie low, help me to do it patiently. And if I am to do nothing, let me do it gallantly.-- Forward Day by Day

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I met God in the morning  
when my day was at its best,  
and his presence came like sunrise,  
like a glory in my breast.

All day long the presence lingered.  
All day long He stayed with me.  
And we sailed and perfect calmness  
O'er a very troubled sea.  
So I think I know the secret  
Learned from many a troubled way.  
You must seek Him in the morning  
If you want Him through the day.  
-- Ralph Cushman

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## Poetry's Place

### **LIKE A TAPESTRY**

Our life is like a tapestry  
Of intricate design  
With lovely patterns taking shape  
As colors intertwine.  
Some of the threads we weave  
ourselves  
By things we chose to do;  
Sometimes a loving Father's touch  
Adds a special hue.  
And though tomorrow's pattern  
Is not for us to see,  
We can trust his perfect hand  
Through all eternity. --(unknown)

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### **GOD'S HEAVENLY GARDEN**

Sometimes God picks the flower  
That is still in full bloom;  
Sometimes the rosebuds chosen  
That we feel He's picked too soon.  
Sometimes the flower is fading  
With petals floating down,  
But God knows the perfect time  
To gather flowers from the ground.  
There is a heavenly garden  
In which God takes great pleasure  
Because He's placed within it

The loved ones that we treasure.  
He walks among the blossoms  
Giving them eternal rest,  
And I know that it must please Him  
Because He chose our very best.  
--Dorothea K. Barwick

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## Pearls of Prudence

One secret of happiness is not in  
doing what one likes, but in liking  
what one has to do. -- James Barrie

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There may be splendor is in the latter  
of success, but you don't notice them  
unless you're sliding down.

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Don't give away all your good advice.  
Save a little for yourself.

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Every man should have a fair sized  
cemetery in which to bury the faults of  
his friends.

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If you tell the truth, you don't have to  
remember what you have said.

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God must have love the common  
people; He made so many of them.  
-- Lincoln

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You can't expect to make your place in  
the sun for yourself if you keep taking  
refuge under the family tree.

-- Charles McDonald

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God does not love us because we are  
valuable. We are valuable because God  
loves us. --Fulton Sheen

## Pleasurable Pastime

### **KID'S THEOLOGY...**

1. Dear God, Please put another holiday between Christmas and Easter. There is nothing good in there now. --*Amanda*
2. Dear God, Thank you for the baby brother but what I asked for was a puppy. I never asked for anything before. You can look it up. --*Joyce*
3. Dear Mr. God, I wish you would not make it so easy for people to come apart. I had to have 3 stitches and a shot. --*Janet*
4. Dear God, Is it true my father won't get in Heaven if he uses his golf words in the house? --*Anita*
5. Dear God, I bet it's very hard for you to love all of everybody in the whole world. There are only 4 people in our family and I can never do it. -- *Nan*
6. Dear God, Did you really mean, Do Unto Others As They Do Unto You? If you did then, I'm going to get even with my brother. --*Dana*
7. Dear God, My Grandpa says you were around when he was a little boy. How far back do you go? --*Love, Dennis*
8. Dear God, Did you mean for giraffes to look like that or was it an accident? --*Norma*

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## Precious Principles

If I did not see that the Lord kept watch over the ship, I should long

since have abandoned the helm. But I see Him! through the storm, strengthening the tackling, handling the yards, spreading the sails -- aye, more! -- commanding the very winds! Should I not be a coward if I abandoned my post? Let Him govern, let Him carry us forward. Let Him hasten or delay, we will fear nothing.

-- Martin Luther

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Nothing the heart gives away is gone... it is kept in the heart of others.

-- M. F. Ames

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Patience is a virtue,  
Virtue is a grace,  
Both put together  
Make a very pretty face.

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**Maturity** is the ability to control anger and settle differences without violence. Maturity is patience. It is the willingness to pass up immediate pleasure in favor of a long-term gain. Maturity is perseverance, the ability to sweat out a project or a situation in spite of heavy opposition and discouraging setbacks. Maturity is the capacity to face unpleasantness and frustration, discomfort and defeat, without complaint or collapse. Maturity is being big enough to say, "I was wrong." And, when right, the mature person need not experience the satisfaction of saying, "I told you so." Maturity is the ability to make a decision and stand by it. The immature

spend their lives exploring endless possibilities and then do nothing. Maturity means dependability, keeping one's word and coming through in a crisis. The immature are masters of the alibi. They are confused and conflicted. Their lives are a maze of broken promises, former friends, unfinished business and good intentions that somehow never materialize. Maturity is the art of living in peace with what we cannot change, the courage, to change what should be changed and the wisdom to know the difference.

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### *Past Pathways*

There is a story in this book *The Lord of Parables* by Leroy Lawson. It's a story about Martha Berry. She lived in Georgia and she had a four-bedroom house, one bathroom, and pretty big rooms. One day Martha walked around the foothills of Georgia and saw all these children who were homeless and were lost and needed rescuing. She gave up her house and called it a rescue mission. It wasn't long until she ran out of resources and so she began to write to some rich people including Henry Ford. She asked Henry Ford for a million dollars, and she got a personal response from Mr. Ford. And in that personal response

there was one dime. She asked for a million, and she got a dime. Instead of becoming resentful and saying, "I'll

show you,' she called the children together. She said, "We're going to take this dime that Mr. Ford so generously sent us, and we are going to put it into action.' So she went out and bought a bag of peanuts and planted the peanuts and in planting the peanuts a bumper crop came forth. The children wanted to have a peanut part, but she said, 'Oh no, we're going to put all of them back into the ground. These are seeds.' So she planted them, and the next year they had another bumper crop. Half of them became seeds, and the other half was sold. So was the beginning of the peanut business. She kept full account of it and finally when she had enough she purchased a piano for her music students in her rescue mission. Then she wrote Henry Ford and told him about it. She said, "I thought you would like to know what happened to your dime." He was impressed, and he brought her to Detroit and took her out for dinner. At the dinner he handed her a million dollar check.