

MOVING SPIRIT

November, 2008

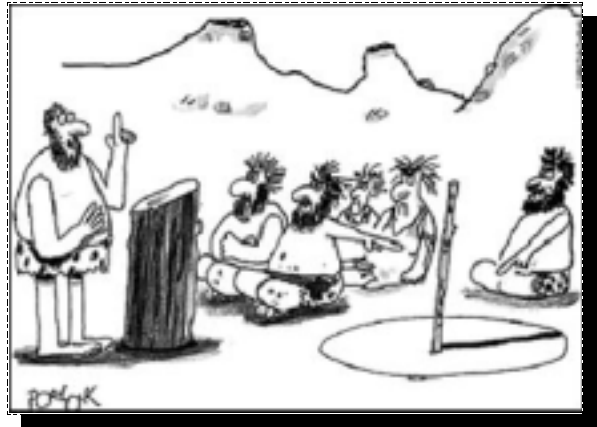
Eskaton Village Community Church

Pastor's Parcel

"So little time with so much to say" is the bane of preachers, as this cartoon illustrates. With 2008 nearly over, most of us feel that time slipped by too fast, with many things left undone. Soon we'll be making New Year's resolutions, when some of those we made at the start of the year are still not achieved.

When I think of my failure to achieve all the goals I had for this year, I realize two things. First, time waits for no one. Second, my mind has more interests than I can possibly pursue in this life. We say to the child who takes too much food on his plate, "Your eyes are bigger than your stomach." God might be telling us, "Your ambitions are bigger than your life." In other words, we can't do all that attracts our attention. We have to focus on what is most important.

When death entered creation by the sin of our first parents, the limitations of time became a reality of life. This is why we must choose our priorities wisely. God, who loves us more than we love ourselves, knows the best way for us to use our limited time and energy. Seeking His guidance helps us learn the wisest way to use our earthly time allotment.



This is why following God's will for our lives is so wise. It is the most logical way to deal with the time limitations of our human condition. Since we cannot do everything, we should choose to do the best things. This is the purpose for the directions in His Word, the Bible. They may often seem restrictive, but they restrict us to excellence, and this frees us from putting too much on the plate of our limited earthly lives.

— *Pastor David Hatton*

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Parish Proclamations

The Christmas season is quickly approaching. It's hard to believe the first Advent Sunday is almost upon us, November 30th. EVCC will be having a sermon series called "Advent... Unwrap the Best Gift of All." Christmas is about

giving, because of the original Gift, God's Son given to our world. Please, join us for these Advent Sundays, as you prepare your hearts for the Coming of the Christ, the "*reason for the season.*"

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A Book Review

In a world where religion seems to grow increasingly irrelevant, *The Shack*, by William P. Young, wrestles with the timeless question, "Where is God in a world filled with unspeakable pain?" The answers revealed will surprise you and even transform your thinking. Mackenzie's youngest daughter, Missy, was abducted, and four years later, in the midst of his "Great Sadness," Mack receives a note from God inviting him to "the shack" for a weekend. Against his better judgment he arrives at the shack and walks back into his darkest nightmare. What Mack finds there will change his world forever.

The Shack is one of the most absorbing works of fiction I've ever read. It is spiritually profound, theologically enlightening and life impacting. This book will usher you into the heart and nature of God in the midst of agonizing human suffering. The story will challenge you to consider the person and the plan of God in more expansive terms than you may ever have imagined.

—Pastor Dawn Valerio

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Pithy Pieces

The birth of Jesus -- Savior, Messiah, Lord -- translates all that is shabby,

despairing, and dying into newness, joy, and life. It is a language that even we can hear. A four-year old boy asked, "What's all the fuss about a baby when there's more to the story?" He was right. If we only focus on the birth of Jesus as a sweet story we like remembering, then we miss out on what can happen for us tonight. The God who comes to be with us can take the shabby, hurting, dirty, abandoned, humiliating parts of ourselves and will make them and us new. --Jennie C. Olbrych

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Our journey here on earth is very short but how wonderful it is when He abides in us and we abide in Him. Yes, life is fragile, however, when we handle it with prayer, He sends Love, Strength, Guidance, Joy and surely Peace, too. All we need is the constant companionship with the Deity. Our God is awesome – call on Him! (contributed by Betty MacKinnon)

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Praise's Portion

"Good morning. It is Sunday morning, and what an awesome day. GOD has created such a beauty for us to admire. GOD is great, GOD is good, and GOD is awesome. Without him we Christians are nothing. Just wish that more people would come to Him, and the great feeling that you and I have for Him, and the love of Him." – Terry Evensizer (a member of the EVCC team from Arcade Wesleyan Church)

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Prayer's Priority

Now I get me up to work,
I pray the Lord I will not shirk.
If I should die before the night,
I pray the Lord my work's all right.

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Dear Lord, I thank you for this day. I thank You for my being able to see and to hear this morning. I'm blessed because You are a forgiving God and an understanding God. You have done so much for me and You keep on blessing me. Forgive me this day for everything I have done, said or thought that was not pleasing to you. I ask now for Your forgiveness..

Please keep me safe from all danger and harm. Help me to start this day with a new attitude and plenty of gratitude. Let me make the best of each and every day to clear my mind so that I can hear from You.

Let me not whine and whimper over things I have no control over. Let me continue to see sin through Your eyes and acknowledge it as evil. And when I sin, let me repent, and confess with my mouth of my wrongdoing, and receive forgiveness.

And when this world closes in on me, let me remember Jesus' example -- to slip away and find a quiet place to pray. It's the best response when I'm pushed beyond my limits. I know that when I can't pray, You listen to my heart. Continue to use me to do Your will.

Continue to bless me that I may be a blessing to others. Keep me strong that I

may help the weak. Keep me uplifted that I may have words of encouragement for others. I pray for those who are lost and can't find their way. I pray for those who are misjudged and misunderstood. I pray for those who don't know You intimately. I pray for those who will delete this without sharing it with others. I pray for those who don't believe. But I thank you that I believe.

I believe that You change people and You change things for good reasons. I pray for all my sisters and brothers. For each and every one of my family members and friends and their families. I pray for peace, love and joy in their homes that they are out of debt and all their needs are met.

I pray that every eye that reads this knows there is no problem, circumstance, or situation greater than You. Every battle is in Your hands for You to fight. I pray that these words be received into the hearts of every eye that sees them and every mouth that confesses them willingly...

This is my prayer. In Jesus' Name, Amen. (sent in by a Eskaton resident)

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Poetry's Place

PRAYER

Hello God, I called tonight
To talk a little while
I need a friend who'll listen
To my anxiety and trial.

You see, I can't quite make it
Through a day just on my own...

I need your love to guide me,
So I'll never feel alone.

I want to ask you please to keep
My family safe and sound.
Come fill their lives with confidence
For whatever fate they're bound.

Give me faith, dear God, to face
Each hour throughout the day;
And not to worry over things
I can't change anyway.

I thank you, God, for being home
And listening to my call,
For giving me such good advice
When I stumble and fall.

Your number, God, is the only one
That answers every time.
I never get a busy signal,
Never had to pay a dime.

So thank you, God, for listening
To my troubles and my sorrow,
Good night, God, I love you too.
And I'll call again tomorrow.

(Author Unknown)

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Pearls of Prudence

Ten Commandments for a Long and Peaceful Life

1. Thou shalt not worry, for it's the most unproductive of all activities.
2. Thou shalt not be fearful, for most things we fear never come to pass.
3. Thou shalt face each problem as it comes; you can handle only one at a

time.

4. Thou shalt not cross bridges before you get to them, for no one yet has succeeded in doing this.

5. Thou shalt not take problems to bed with you, for they make very poor bedfellows.

6. Thou shalt not borrow other people's problems – they can take better care of them than you can.

7. Thou shalt be a good listener, for it's very hard to learn anything new when you're talking.

8. Thou shalt not try to relive yesterday for good or ill – concentrate on what is happening in your life today.

9. Thou shalt not become bogged down by frustration, for 50% of it is rooted in self-pity and will only interfere with positive action.

10. Thou shalt count thy blessings, never overlooking the small ones – for a lot small blessings add up to a big one.

(contributed by Fern Lucas)

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Pleasurable Pastime

Two 90-year-old women, Rose and Barb, had been friends all of their lives. When it was clear that Rose was dying, Barb visited her every day.

One day Barb said, "Rose, we both loved playing women's softball all our lives. If you can, do me a favor. When you get to Heaven, somehow let me know if there's women's soft-ball there."

Rose looked up and said, "Barb, you've been my best friend. If it's at all possible, I'll do this favor for you."

Shortly after that, Rose passed on.

At midnight the following Friday, Barb was awakened from a sound sleep by a blinding flash of white light and a voice calling out to her, "Barb, Barb."

"Who is it?" asked Barb, sitting up.

"Barb – it's me, Rose."

"Rose! Where are you?"

"In Heaven," Rose replied. "I have really good news and a little bad news."

"Tell me the good news first."

"The good news," Rose said, "is that there's softball in Heaven. Better yet, our old buddies who died before us are here. Better still, we're all young again, and it's always springtime. It never rains or snows. Best of all, we can play softball all we want and never get tired."

"That's fantastic," said Barb. "It's beyond my wildest dreams! So what's the bad news"

"You're pitching Tuesday."

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Precious Principles

If God brings you to it,
He will bring you through it.

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Happy moments, praise God.
Difficult moments, seek God.
Quiet moments, worship God.
Painful moments, trust God.
Every moment, thank God.

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REMEMBER...

- ☞ No one can ruin your day without your permission.
- ☞ We can be about as happy as we decide to be.

☞ The best way to escape your problem is to solve it.

☞ The largest lie on earth is: "When I get what I want, I will be happy."

☞ If you don't start out now, you surely won't arrive.

☞ Those who laugh, last.

☞ Look for opportunities, not guarantees.

☞ You will never "have it all together."

☞ Success is getting up one more time.

☞ When things go wrong, don't go with them.

☞ Now is the most interesting time of all.

☞ Life is a journey, not a destination. Enjoy the whole trip!

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Personal Pulpit

"But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect."
– 1 Peter 3:15 (NIV)

Greetings to everyone at Eskaton! My name is Terry A. Brown. I am an assistant pastor at EVCC. It has been an honor to serve the people of Eskaton through a Christian ministry. It is also a challenge I welcome as a believer, to share the many blessings, wonders and mysteries of life (who we are, where we are headed, and why we are here) through the revelation of God's Word, the Bible, and His Son Jesus Christ.

My personal "Mission Statement" was born from 1 Peter 3:15 and two books

written by Paul Little entitled, *Know What You Believe* and *Know Why You Believe*. At EVCC we invite people from many backgrounds and denominations to join us in seeking answers to these questions, and then to learn to communicate them to others.

All of us from time to time reflect on the meaning of life and struggle to understand suffering and any "dark night of the soul," which can be unavoidable even for the saints. Here at Eskaton we address the overwhelming nature of life as well as investigate and search through many other subjects of our time. We hope to offer ways to overcome life's challenges and to fulfill life's years with exceptional joy and peace, made available through knowledge of, faith in, and personal relationship with God.

You may have visited our services. We hope you return. You may be a regular attender. We pray you stay! You may have decided never to go to church again, because you found something in life irreconcilable or had a falling out with God that you just can't work out. There are answers. As finite humans we can't know them all. Some of those answers are not even available in words. However, through an honest approach to life by God's Word, the Holy Spirit's wisdom, and the love and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, there is enrichment to life that cannot be found elsewhere. Come! Discover "what you believe, why you believe it, and how to share it with your world." God bless you! We hope to see you worshipping with us, again or for the

very first time!

(Pastor Terry Brown did his internship here at EVCC, and is a commissioned minister in The Wesleyan Church)

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Priceless Prose

I am standing on the seashore and a ship spreads her sails to the morning breeze and starts for the ocean. I stand watching her as she fades on the horizon, and someone on my side says, "She is gone." Gone where? The loss of sight is in me, not in her. Just in the moment when someone says, "She is gone," there are others who are watching her coming. Other voices take up the glad shout, "Here she comes!" And that is dying.
(sent in by Betty MacKinnon)