

MOVING SPIRIT

devotional newsletter of

Village Community Church

Pastor's Parcel

At church over the last few months, we've often been singing a song of thankfulness: "*Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart.*" I believe gratitude is an inborn human attitude that we bring to completion only through *thanksgiving*. In other words, by a built-in reflex our hearts feel grateful for blessings and benefits that come our way. But we must consciously choose to "*give thanks.*"

This bond between a human *attitude* and a human *act* offers a commentary on how religious *faith* relates to personal *behavior*. Even self-proclaimed atheists behave religiously whenever they make choices from a belief in ultimate values, such as morality or human progress. Humans can't fool themselves or others. Deep inside, we all know that "no man is an island;" no one independent from the rest; our race never free from owing thanks to God, our Creator and Provider.

We can avoid this inescapably human trait of *gratitude* only by dehumanizing ourselves and denying our natural sense

**Give
thanks
with a
grateful
heart!**

of gratefulness. Such denial is ugly to see. But how lovely is a personal display of gratitude by the spoken "Thank you" for a friend's gift, a neighbor's help, or an employee's service! Such beauty falls short of its fullness if not also expressed in prayers of thanksgiving to our Maker.

May none of us have illusions of living a self-sufficient, "island" life-style this Thanksgiving. May everyone "*give thanks with a grateful heart.*"

— *Pastor David Hatton*

Parish Proclamations

Encouraging Predictions for 2012

With all the problems the World is facing, it can be unsettling to the mind. Here are ten predictions that are true!

Top 10 Predictions for 2012

1. The Bible will still have all the answers.
2. Prayer will still be powerful.
3. The Holy Spirit will still move.
4. God will still honor our praises.
5. There will still be God-anointed preaching.
6. There will still be songs of worship.
7. God will still bless His people.
8. There will still be room at the Cross.
9. Jesus will still be saving lost souls.
10. Jesus will still love you.

"the Word of the Lord endures forever."

— 1 Peter 1:25

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Personal Pulpit

AIN'T

He was just a little boy,
On a week's first day.
Wandering home from Bible school,
And dawdling on the way.—
He scuffed his shoes into the grass;
He even found a caterpillar.
He found a fluffy milkweed pod

And blew out all the 'filler.'—
A bird's nest in a tree overhead,
So wisely placed up so high.

Was just another wonder,
That caught his eager eye.—

A neighbor watched his zigzag course,
And hailed him from the lawn;
Asked him where he'd been that day
And what was going on.—

'I've been to Bible School ,'

He said and turned a piece of sod.

He picked up a wiggly worm replying,
'I've learned a lot about God.'—

'M'm, very fine way,' the neighbor said,
'for a boy to spend his time.'

'If you'll tell me where God is,
I'll give you a brand new dime.'—

Quick as a flash the answer came!

Nor were his accents faint.

'I'll give you a dollar, Mister,

If you can tell me where God ain't.'

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Pithy Pieces

A LIFE OF LAUGHTER

"Thou hast turned for me my mourning into dancing: thou hast put off my sackcloth, and girded me with gladness; To the end that my glory may sing praise to thee, and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will give thanks unto thee for ever." — Psalm 30: 11, 12 (KJV)

I am so thankful that my life is a life

that is filled with joy, peace, happiness and laughter. However, it hasn't always been this way. Most of my life was filled with pain, heartache, fear and sadness. On the saddest and darkest day of my life, as I was lying under a bed in a mental hospital with no desire to live, Jesus came to me. He put His loving and compassionate arms around me and lifted me up from underneath that bed.

He held me close to His heart and dried my tears with His tender kisses. He said "I love you, Joanne. It's safe for you to come out from under this bed. I won't let anyone hurt you again. I will never leave you. You can trust Me." He has kept His word. He has never left me, not even for one minute. What a Saviour! What a friend, this Jesus of Nazareth! There is no one like Jesus. No one loves us like He loves us.

Squire Parsons wrote a beautiful and inspiring song "He Came To Me". These words fill my heart with joy "He came to me, O, He came to me. When I could not come to where He was, He came to me." I could not come to where Jesus was but I am so thankful that He loves me so much that He came to me.

My precious Saviour didn't just come to visit me in that hospital; He took me out of the hospital. He took the terror from my heart and replaced it with the assurance that He will protect me and

will never leave me and that He will always love me. This is why I love my precious Saviour so much.

A lot of people have asked me if it is difficult to write about my past. Yes, it is very painful to write about my past but I do it because if it helps just one person then it's worth the embarrassment and painful memories. If your heart is breaking and you are living a life of sadness and pain, I have good news for you. You too can have a life of laughter, happiness, peace, joy and excitement just like I do. If you have invited the Christ of Calvary into your heart to be your personal Saviour, He has already given you everything you need to live a life of laughter.

Allow Jesus to flood your heart and your life with laughter and joy. He really does love you and He wants you to be happy. Spend time with Him every day and laugh with Him. Listen to Him as He softly whispers in your ear "I love you". He will remove the tears of pain, discouragement, disappointments, grief, heartaches and sorrow from your heart with His tender compassionate kisses. Have you allowed Jesus to fill your heart and your life with laughter or are you still living in bondage to Satan?

— Joanne Lowe

Prayer's Priority

THE BANNED PRAYER

Now I sit me down in school
Where praying is against the rule
For this great nation under God
Finds mention of Him very odd.

If Scripture now the class recites,
It violates the Bill of Rights.
And anytime my head I bow
Becomes a Federal matter now.

Our hair can be purple, orange or green,
That's no offense; it's a freedom scene.
The law is specific, the law is precise.
Prayers spoken aloud are a serious vice.

For praying in a public hall
Might offend those with no faith at all.
In silence alone we must meditate,
God's name is prohibited by the state.

They let us cuss and dress like freaks,
Or pierce our noses, tongues and cheeks.
They outlawed guns, but first the Bible.
Quoting God's Word makes me liable.
We can get condoms and birth control
Study witchcraft or build a totem pole.
But "right and wrong" are not allowed.
No "10 Commandments" reach this crowd.

It's scary here I must confess.
When chaos reigns, our school's a mess.
So, Lord, this silent plea I make:
Should I be shot; My soul please take!

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Perpetual Precepts

Happiness is something
we create in our mind.
It's not something you search for
and so seldom find—
It's just waking up
and beginning the day
By counting our blessings
and kneeling to pray—
It's giving up thoughts
that breed discontent
And accepting what comes
as a "gift heaven-sent"—
It's giving up wishing
for things we have not
And making the best of
whatever we've got—
It's knowing that life
is determined for us,
And pursuing our tasks
without fret, fume or fuss—
For it's by completing
what God gives us to do
That we find real contentment
and happiness, too.

— Helen Steiner Rice

Poetry's Place

The Christian Alphabet Poem

A lthough things are not perfect
B ecause of trial or pain,
C ontinue in thanksgiving
D o not begin to blame.
E ven when the times are hard,
F ierce winds are bound to blow.
G od is forever able.
H old on to what you know.
I magine life without His love.
J oy would cease to be.
K eep thanking Him for all the things
L ove imparts to thee.
M ove out of "Camp Complaining."
N o weapon that is known
O n earth can yield the power
P rayer can do alone.
Q uit looking at the future.
R edeem the time at hand.
S tart every day with worship.
T o "thank" is a command.
U ntil we see Him coming
V ictorious in the sky,
W e'll run the race with gratitude,
eXalting God most high.
Y es, though down here our good times
are threatened by the bad,
Z ion waits in glory, where none are ever
sad!

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Pearls of Prudence

Older Folks Are Permitted To...

1. Spend more time dreaming, hoping and planning—and less time regretting.
2. Take up a new hobby—or resume an old favorite. Remember, the paintbrush, tennis racket, or pen doesn't know, or care, how old you are.
3. Don't be afraid to pack your life with lots of activities and interests. Remember, you're over the hill; it's OK to pick up speed.
4. Listen to the music you want to listen to. Don't worry about what your friends might say—they probably can't hear the music anyway.
5. Learn to use "You'll see" as a way to win an argument with any person younger than you. Anytime a young punk argues a point with you, just chuckle good-naturedly, wag your head, and say, "You'll see."
6. Be generous with your stuff. Once you're gone, somebody else is going to get it or toss it anyway.
7. Try to say or do a least one outrageous thing a week.
8. Remember, the older you get, the more important it is NOT to act your age.
9. At a certain age, it's proper church

etiquette to say you heard the sermon if you were awake only at the beginning and at the end.

10. Don't hesitate to say "I told you so" to your kids—or anyone else too stubborn to listen to your sage advice.

11. Be real with people. Have strong opinions and voice them.

12. Support the causes you believe in, not necessarily the ones the celebrities promote.

13. If you disagree with it, ignore popular opinion (you've seen it proved wrong countless times before.)

14. Learn something new often by practicing listening, but make a difference by sharing the wisdom and traditions you've learned.

15. Enjoy what you have, be grateful for where you've been, and try your best to appreciate where you are right now.

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What your leave behind is not what is engraved in stone monuments but what is woven into the lives of others.

— Pericles

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I keep the telephone of my mind open to peace, harmony, health, love, and abundance. Then, whenever doubt, anxiety, or fear try to call me, they will keep getting a busy signal and soon

they'll forget my number.

— Edith Armstrong

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Pleasurable Pastime

Children's Dear God Letters

(uncorrected grammar and spelling)

Dear God, Instead of Letting people die and haveing to Make new ones Why don't you just Keep the ones you got now?— Jane

Dear God, I bet it is very hard. for you to love all of every body in the whole world There are only 4 people in our family and I can never do it. — Nan

Dear God, I went to this wedding and they kissed right in church Is that ok?
— Neil

Dear God, I think the stapler is one of you greatest invention — Ruth M.

Dear God, IN bible times did they really talk that fancy? — Jennifer

Dear God, I think about you sometimes even when I'm not praying — Elliott

Dear God, I am Amearican What ar you?
— Robert

Dear God, Thank you for the baby brother but what I prayed for was a Puppy — Joyce

Dear God, Please put a- nother Holiday between Christmas and Easter. There is nothing good in there now. — Ginny

Dear God, If you watch in Church on Sunday I will show you my new Shoes — Mickey D.

Dear - God - if - we - come - back as - something - please - dont let - me - be Jennifer - Horton because - I - hate her. — Denise

GOD, I WOULD LIKE TO LIVE 900 YEARS LIKE THE GUY IN THE BIBLE — LOVE, CHRIS

Dear God, If you give me genie lamp like Alladin I will give you anything you want except my money or my chess set. — Raphael

Dear God, If you let The dinasor not extinct we would not have a country. You did the right thing. — Jonathan

Dear God, Please Send Dennis Clark to a different camp this year. — Peter

Dear God, Maybe Cain and Abel would not kill each so much if they had their own rooms. I works with my brother.

— Larry

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Precious Principles

LESSONS FROM NOAH'S ARK

1. Don't miss the boat.
2. Remember, we're all in the same boat!
3. Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.
4. Stay fit. God may ask you to do

something big in your senior years.

5. Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.

6. Build your future on high ground.

7. For safety's sake, travel in pairs.

8. Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.

9. When you're stressed, float awhile.

10. Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.

11. With God, after the storm, there's always a rainbow waiting.

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Let us thank God heartily as often as we pray that we have His Spirit in us to teach us to pray. Thanksgiving will draw our hearts out to God and keep us engaged with Him; it will take our attention from ourselves and give the Spirit room in our hearts.

— Andrew Murray

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Past Pathways

When I was young I was amazed at Plutarch's statement that the elder Cato began at the age of eighty to learn Greek. I am amazed no longer. Old age is ready to undertake tasks that youth shirked because they would take too long. —W. Somerset Maugham (1874 -1965, British Novelist, Playwright)

Serving Residents at Eskaton

Village Community Church offers an opportunity for interdenominational Christian worship under the sponsorship of Faith Legacy Church. We maintain an evangelical spirit focused on the Bible as God's Word. Congregational unity is expressed by our confession of the ancient Apostle Creed or Nicene Creed at our monthly Holy Communion. We hope residents without a church home, or who find travel to their own churches too difficult, will visit our fellowship.

Rev. David Hatton, also an RN, leads

VCC with the help of Rev. Terry A. Brown and Pastor Dawn Valerio, both also bivocational ministers. All three are available for pastoral visits and spiritual counsel by request:

Pastor David's cell phone: 605-9615

David & Rosemary home: 920-5854

Pastor Terry's cell phone: 425-4731

Pastor Dawn's cell phone: 764-2328

Or leave a message for any of them at Faith Legacy Church office, 487-5123.

Regular Meetings:

Worship (Music Room) . . . 10:00 a.m.

Worship (Assisted Living) 11:15 a.m.

Communion . . 1st Sunday each month

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c/o Faith Legacy Church
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