

# MOVING SPIRIT

devotional newsletter of

*Village Community Church*

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## Pastor's Parcel

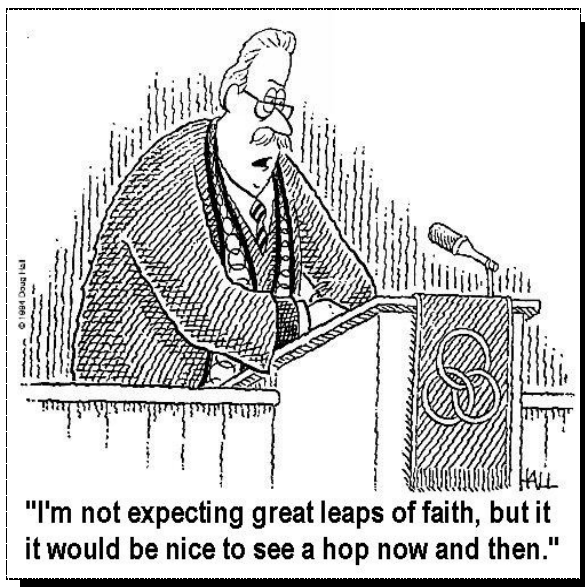
God doesn't often require of us the "great leaps of faith" taken by those we read about in Scripture. Yet the faithfulness of such Bible characters encourages us to take "a hop now and then."

We may not be called as Noah was, to build an ark to save his household and preserve the animal kingdom, but God does call us to build relationships, so we might love our neighbor as ourselves.

God may not call us to leave our land for an unknown destination, as He did Abraham. But He might ask us to leave our comfort zone to serve others in ways unfamiliar to us but important to them.

He may not call us to slay giants with a sling, but He does call us to slay bad habits with self-discipline through the Holy Spirit.

He may not invite us to get out of the boat and join Him by walking on water, as He did with Peter. But you can be sure He will ask us to leave the safe walls of our homes to go visit those afflicted with illness. We may be at a loss for words to share with suffering



neighbors, but if the disciples could trust Christ for their speeches before kings, we can trust Him to teach us what to say to friends in pain, unless He knows that our quiet presence is all they really need.

Faith isn't about *long leaps* or *shorts hops*, but about listening to God with a willingness to obey His leading. No one is an expert at this. Even the heroes and heroines of Scripture were in the process of learning how to do it, and so are we.

— *Pastor David*

# Parish Proclamations

## **The Moving Spirit**

Since VCC started at Eskaton in 1996, this devotional newsletter has served as a way of sharing Bible verses, quotes, prayers, poems, inspiring stories, personal testimonies, and even religious humor. Its content largely depends on those contributing to it from among the residents in our services. But we know there are others at Eskaton attending their own churches off-campus. If any of you have something that would fit into the newsletter's various categories, feel free to put a copy of it into the VCC Box in the Mail Room. We publish the *Moving Spirit* only occasionally, but for those who would like to read the past issues, they are found at the bottom of the "**Village Community Church**" webpage on Pastor David's website: [www.pastordavidrn.com](http://www.pastordavidrn.com).

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## Personal Pulpit

### **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'm so thankful that my life is one 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 Savior! 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'm so thankful He loves me so much that He came to me.

My precious Savior 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 Savior so much.

A lot of people have asked me if it is difficult to write about my past. Yes, it is very painful. . .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 as I do. If you've invited the Christ of Calvary into your heart to be your personal Savior, 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?

—adapted from *Joanne Lowe*  
(Inspirational writer, Pensacola, FL)

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## *Pithy Pieces*

“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*  
(novelist, playwright, 1874-1965)

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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* (Greek orator, 495-429 BC)

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## *Praise’s Portion*

[*Note from Pastor David:* Newer songs of praise sometimes lack the spiritual depth and survival power of older hymns. That is not true of this one. If you have access to a computer, listen to it sung by doing a search for it on [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)]

### **“In Christ Alone”**

In Christ alone my hope is found.  
He is my light, my strength, my song.  
This Cornerstone, this Solid Ground,

Firm thru the fiercest drought and storm.  
What heights of love, what depths of peace,  
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!  
My Comforter, my All in All,  
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone who took on flesh,  
Fulness of God in helpless babe!  
This gift of love and righteousness,  
Scorned by the ones He came to save;  
Till on that cross as Jesus died,  
The wrath of God was satisfied—  
For every sin on Him was laid:  
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,  
Light of the world by darkness slain.  
Then bursting forth in glorious Day,  
Up from the grave He rose again!  
And as He stands in victory,  
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,  
For I am His and He is mine—  
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,  
This is the power of Christ in me.  
From life's first cry to final breath,  
Jesus commands my destiny.  
No power of hell, no scheme of man,  
Can ever pluck me from His hand;  
Till He returns or calls me home,  
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.  
— Songwriters, *Donald A. Koch* and  
*Andrew Shawn Craig*

## *Prayer's Priority*

### **A Modern Student's 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.  
But the law is specific and very precise:  
Prayer spoken aloud is 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  
And pierce our noses, tongues & cheeks.  
They outlawed prayer, but first the Bible.  
To quote the Good Book makes me liable.

We can elect a pregnant Senior Queen  
Or an unwed daddy as our Senior King.  
It's impolite to teach right from wrong.  
Such *value judgments* do not belong.

We get free condoms and birth controls,  
Study witches, vampires & totem poles.  
But the 10 Commandments aren't allowed.

No Word of God must 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!

— *author unknown*

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## *Perpetual Precepts*

### **ALWAYS LOOK UP!**

#### *THE BUZZARD:*

If you put a buzzard in a pen that is 6 feet by 8 feet and is entirely open at the top, the bird, in spite of its ability to fly, will be an absolute prisoner. The reason is that a buzzard always begins a flight from the ground with a run of 10 to 12 feet. Without space to run, as is its habit, It will not even attempt to fly, but will remain a prisoner for life in a small jail with no top.

#### *THE BAT:*

The ordinary bat that flies around at night, a remarkable nimble creature in the air, cannot take off from a level place. If it is placed on the floor or flat ground, all it can do is shuffle about helplessly and, no doubt, painfully, until it reaches some slight elevation from which it can throw itself into the air. Then, at once, it takes off like a flash.

#### *THE BUMBLEBEE:*

A bumblebee, if dropped into an open tumbler, will be there until it dies, unless it is taken out. It never sees the means of escape at the top, but persists in trying to find some way out through the sides near the bottom.. It will seek a way where none exists, until it completely destroys itself.

#### *PEOPLE:*

In many ways, we are like the buzzard, the bat, and the bumblebee. We struggle about with all our problems and frustrations, never realizing that all we have to do is look up! That's the answer, the escape route and the solution to any problem! Just look up. Sorrow looks back, worry looks around, but faith looks up! — *author unknown*

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## *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 wield the power  
**P** raise 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  
**eX** alt God most high.  
**Y** es, there’ll be good times, and yes,  
     some will be bad, but...  
**Z** ion waits in glory...

where none are ever sad!  
 – submitted by *Betty MacKinnon*  
 (who attended VCC for 17 years)

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## Pleasurable Pastime

### **It’s Nice to Share**

After visiting his grandfather who peppers his sentences with salty language, our preschooler came home enthusiastically using his new-found vocabulary. We tried valiantly to discourage it without condemning his grandfather, but had no luck.

Exasperated, I finally told him that

those particular words were his grandfather’s and not ours, and so they should stay back there at Grandpa’s house. I was pleased with myself at having found a way to separate the profanity from the person until our young philosopher remembered another lesson: “But, Mommy, you always tell me it’s nice to share!”  
 – *Page Zyromski, Painesville, OH.*

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## Precious Principles

### **NOAH’S ARK: All You Need to Know**

- 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.* When you’re 60, God may ask you to do something really big.
- 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.* Snails were on board with cheetahs.
- 9 - When you’re stressed, *float awhile.*
- 10 - Remember, the Ark was built by *amateurs;* the Titanic by *professionals.*
- 11 - Regardless of the storm, *with God there’s always a rainbow waiting.*

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# Past Pathways

## **A Soldiers' Conversion**

[These lines, written in 1943, were found in the possession of numerous boys who fell on the battlefields of WWII.]

Look, God,  
I have never spoken to You.  
But now—I want to say,  
“How do you do.”  
You see, God,  
they told me You didn't exist.  
And like a fool—  
I believed all of this.  
Last night from a shell-hole  
I saw Your sky—  
I figured right then,  
they had told me a lie.  
Had I taken time  
to see the things You made,  
I'd known they weren't calling  
a spade a spade.  
I wonder, God,  
if You'd shake my hand.  
Somehow—I feel  
that You will understand.  
Funny,—I had to come  
to this hellish place,  
Before I had the time  
to see Your Face.

Well, I guess  
there isn't much more to say.

But I'm sure glad, God,  
I met You today.  
I guess the “zero hour”  
will soon be here.  
But I'm not afraid  
since I know You're near.

The signal!—Well, God,  
I'll have to go.  
I like You lots.  
This I want You to know.  
Look, now—  
this will be a horrible fight.  
Who knows—  
I may come to Your house tonight.  
Though I wasn't friendly  
with You before  
I wonder, God—  
if You'd wait at Your Door.  
Look—I'm crying!  
Me!—Shedding tears!  
I wish I'd known You  
these many years.  
Well, I will have to go now, God—  
goodbye.  
Strange—since I met You—  
I'm not afraid to die.  
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## ***Serving Residents at Eskaton***

Village Community Church offers an opportunity for interdenominational Christian worship under the sponsorship of Arcade Wesleyan Church. Honoring tradition, we maintain an evangelical spirit focused on the Holy Bible as the Word of God. 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 is an RN who

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's 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 . . . 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday each month

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c/o Faith Legacy Church  
3532 Whitney Avenue  
Sacramento, CA 95821

*Spring – 2013*