

MOVING SPIRIT

devotional newsletter of
Village Community Church

Pastor's Parcel

Many measure spiritual health by focusing more on personal growth than on faith's social implications. It *does* feel "good" to care for others' needs. But the more fundamental relationship to cultivate both personal and social holiness is our fellowship with God.

A familiar Christian acrostic for **JOY** is "**J**esus 1st, **O**thers 2nd, **Y**ourself last." There's divine truth in that, especially in our prayer life. Praying for ourselves or others can be a *monologue* with us doing all the talking, rather than a *dialogue* where God enters into the conversation.

Hearing God's voice isn't difficult. As children, we felt it in *the conscience*. Later, we may have heard Him in *nature* and in Holy Scripture. But I believe God's goal is for us to hear Him speak through the Holy Spirit in our hearts.

Prayer changes things, but prayer itself may need to be transformed—changed from *talking to* God into *talking with* God, allowing Him not just to participate but even to take the lead and



direct the discussion.

He may reduce the size of long lists of personal wants and worries, as we hear Him say, "*I've got that covered, My child.*" To our frets and fears about the needs of others, He may reassure us, "*They're covered, too, dear one.*"

This can turn petition into praise and supplication into thanksgiving. With our inner ear attuned to divine guidance in prayer, God often will tell us what we're to do personally about our requests, so that our prayer gives birth to action. Two-way conversations with God are one of life's most exciting adventures.

– Pastor David

Parish Proclamations

New Retirees!

Rev. David Hatton, the leading pastor at Village Community Church, and his associate pastor, Rev. Terry Brown, stopped being bivocational ministers on August 19th and 31st respectively. David retired from his job at Kaiser Hospital in Roseville as an L&D nurse, and Terry retired from custodial work with the United States Postal Service. It may not be too long before Pastor Dawn Valerio, our worship leader, decides to make her exit from the world of work as a teacher and join “the retired” club.

Without jobs to worry about, our pastoral team will be more available for visitation. But we need your help. Often, we are “out of the loop” about what’s happening at Eskaton. Please, let us know when there’s a need for a visit. Our phone numbers are on the church worship folders and at the end of this newsletter.

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2 Sermon Series Coming!

Seasonal sermon series are something the VCC pastors enjoy doing, and as we close this year, we have planned a series in November on

THANKSGIVING FROM THE PSALMS. In December, we’ve decided on something unique that we’ve never before attempted: an Advent series based on A CHRISTMAS CAROL by Charles Dickens. That choice prompted Pastor David to plan another short series for the first 3 Sundays of the New Year. He’ll be preaching 3 messages using the movie-trilogy BACK TO THE FUTURE as illustrations. We hope you can come, hear, and be blessed by these messages.

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January 2016 - 20 Years for VCC

Village Community Church will be 20 years old this coming New Year. It hardly seems possible that we’ve been holding church services at Eskaton for 2 decades! We are setting aside Sunday January 24th as a time of remembrance and celebration. Mark your calendars so you don’t miss this memorable occasion.

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Personal Pulpit

Psalm 39

At the age of 59 my friend Bob Boardman wrote, “If the 70 years of a normal life span were squeezed into a single 24-hour day, it would now be 8:30 in the evening in my life. . . . Time is slipping by so rapidly.”

The difficulty in admitting that our time on earth is limited inspired the creation of “Tikker”—a wristwatch that tells you what time it is, calculates your estimated normal life span, and displays a running countdown of your remaining time. It is advertised as the watch “that counts down your life, just so you can make every second count.”

In Psalm 39, David grappled with the brevity of his life, saying, “*Show me, Lord, my life’s end and the number of my days; let me know how fleeting my life is*” (v.4). He described his life span as no longer than the width of his hand, as only a moment to God, and merely a breath (v.5). David concluded, “*But now, Lord, what do I look for? My hope is in you*” (v.7).

The clock is ticking. Now is the time to seek God’s power to help us become the people He wants us to be. Finding hope in our eternal God gives meaning for our lives today.

In what ways am I wasting time? In what ways am I making my days count? In what areas do I need to make changes? The time to live for Jesus is now.
(David McCasland, *Our Daily Bread*)

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“*My times are in your hand. . . .*”

— Psalm 31:15a

Pithy Pieces

Encouraging Predictions for 2016

The many problems we face in the world today can unsettle our minds. But here are ten true predictions!

10 TOP PREDICTIONS FOR 2016

1. The Bible will still be here to study.
2. Prayer will still change things.
3. The Holy Spirit will still be moving.
4. God will still honor our praises.
5. God’s Word will still be proclaimed.
6. There will still be praises sung to God.
7. God will still bless His people.
8. There will still be room at the Cross.
9. God’s grace will still be free.
10. Jesus will still love lost sinners and save them, if they come to Him.

[Isn’t it great to remember that, every day of every year, “*the Word of the Lord endures forever*”? (1 Peter 1:25)]

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Prayer’s Priority

ANOTHER DAY

Lord thank You for another day,
Within this life of mine.
Give me the strength to live it well,
Whatever I may find.
Bestow from Your abundance,

Whatever I may lack
To use the hours wisely,
For I cannot have them back.

Lord thank You for another day,
In which to make amends
For little slights or petty words,
Inflicted on my friends.
For sometimes losing patience,
With problems that I find,
For seeing faults in other lives,
But not the ones in mine.

Lord thank You for another chance,
In which to try to be
A little more deserving
Of the gifts You've given me.
For yesterday is over,
And tomorrow's far away,
And I remain committed,
To the good I do today!

by Grace E. Easley

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Perpetual Precepts

LEND A HAND

Lend a hand to one another
in the daily toil of life
When we meet a weaker brother
let us help him in the strife—
There is none so rich but may
in his turn be forced to borrow

And the poor man's lot today
may become our own tomorrow.

Lend a hand to one another—
when malicious tongues have thrown
Dark suspicion on your brother,
be not prompt to throw a stone—
There is none so good but may
run adrift in shame and sorrow
And the good man of today
may become the bad tomorrow.

Lend a hand to one another
in the race for Honor's crown
Should it fall upon your brother
let not envy tear it down—

Lend a hand to all we pray for,
in their sunshine or their sorrow,
And the prize they've won today
may become our own tomorrow.

by William McGuffey

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Pearls of Prudence

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.”

(author unknown)

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“The condition of an enlightened
mind is a surrendered heart.”

—*Alan Redpath*

Pleasurable Pastime

Puns for Educated Minds

1. The fattest knight at King Arthur’s round table was Sir Cumference. He acquired his size from too much *pi*.
2. I thought I saw an eye doctor on an Alaskan island, but it turned out to be an optical Aleutian.
3. She was only a whiskey maker, but he loved her still.
4. A rubber band pistol was confiscated from algebra class, because it was a weapon of math disruption.
5. No matter how much you push the envelope, it’ll still be stationery.
6. A dog gave birth to puppies near the road and was cited for littering.
7. A bomb exploding in a French kitchen would result in Linoleum Blownapart.
8. Two silk worms had a race. They ended up in a tie.
9. A hole has been reported in a nudist camp wall. The police are looking into it.
10. Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.
11. Atheism is a non-prophet organization.
12. A hat on a hat rack told the hat beside it, “You stay here; I’ll go on a head.”
13. I wondered why the baseball kept getting bigger. Then it hit me.
14. A sign on the lawn at the drug rehab

center said: “Keep off the Grass.”

15. A midget fortune-teller escaped from prison and was a small medium at large.

16. Soldiers who survive mustard gas and pepper spray are seasoned veterans.

17. A backward poet writes inverse.

18. In a democracy, your vote counts. In feudalism, your count that votes.

19. A Buddhist had a root canal done using only transcendental medication.

20. If you jumped off the bridge in Paris, you’d be in Seine.

21. When a vulture carrying two dead raccoons boarded a plane, the stewardess said, “Sorry, only one carrion allowed.”

22. When two fish swam into a concrete wall, both of them said, “Dam.”

23. When 2 cold Eskimos lit a fire in their kayak, it sank, proving yet again that you can’t have your kayak and heat it too.

24. Two hydrogen atoms met an oxygen atom, saying, “We lost our electrons.” “Are you sure?” “Yes, we’re positive.”

25. A person sent ten puns to friends, hoping they at least one would make them laugh. No pun in ten did.

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Priceless Prose

An Interview With God

“Come in,” God said “So, you would like to interview me?”

“If you have the time,” I said.

God smiled, “My time is eternity and is enough to do everything. What questions do you have?”

“What surprises you most about mankind?” I asked.

God answered, “That they get bored of being children, are in a rush to grow, up, and then long to be children again. That they lose their health to make money and then lose their money to restore their health. That by thinking anxiously about the future, they forget the present. That they live as if they’ll never die, and die as if they’d never lived.”

God took my hand and we were silent for awhile, then I asked, “As a parent, what are some of life’s lessons you want your children to learn?”

God replied with a smile, “To learn that what is most valuable is not **what** they have in their lives, but **who** they have in their lives. To learn that it only takes a few seconds to open profound wounds in a person we love, and that it takes many years to heal them. To learn that a rich person is not the one who has the most, but the one who needs the least. To learn that it is not good to compare themselves to others. All will be judged individually not as a group on a comparison basis.”

“They need,” He continued, “to learn to

forgive by practicing forgiveness. To learn that there are persons who love them dearly, but do not know how to express or show their feelings. To learn that two people can look at the same thing and see it totally differently, and yet both views are valid. To learn that a true friend is someone who knows everything about them, and likes them anyway. To learn that money cannot buy happiness.”

I sat there awhile enjoying the moment. I thanked God for the time and for all that God has done for me and my family.

God replied, “Anytime! I’m here 24 hours a day. All you have to do is ask for me, and I’ll answer.”

— *anonymous*

(submitted by Sally Blaker)

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Precious Principles

BUSY SIGNAL

“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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Past Pathways

“Come Over Here, Father!”

A man in Chicago who had a sweet beloved little daughter who died. His house was so lonely and he was so angry against God, that he walked up and down in his room far into the night cursing God for having robbed him of his child.

At last, thoroughly worn out and still in great bitterness, he threw himself on his bed and fell asleep.

He dreamed he stood beside a river. Across the river, in the distance, he heard the singing of such voices as he had never listened to before. Then he saw beautiful little girls coming toward him, nearer and nearer.

At last at the head of the company, he saw his own little girl. She stood on the brink of the river and called across, “Come over here, father!”

When he awoke from his sleep, the dream had overcome his bitterness. He soon accepted Jesus as his Savior, and thus was prepared to go over yonder where his sweet child had gone.

— *told by evangelist R. A. Torrey*

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“Death is a confirmation of the believer’s creed. For the skeptic it is discovery, immense and late.” — *Calvin Miller*

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 a retired RN who leads VCC with the help of Rev. Terry Brown and Pastor Dawn Valerio. All three are available for pastoral visits and spiritual counsel by request:

Pastor David's cell phone: 605-9615

David & Rosemary home: 550-8200

Pastor Terry's cell phone: 425-4731

Pastor Dawn's cell phone: 764-2328

Or leave a message for any of them at the 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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Fall – 2015