

MOVING SPIRIT

devotional newsletter of

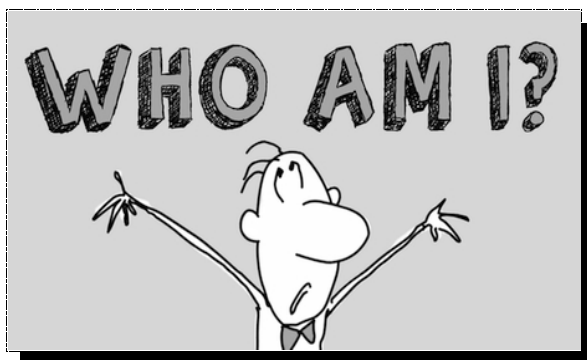
Village Community Church

Pastor's Parcel

After we on the VCC team decided to write mini-biographies for this issue, I found the cartoon at the side. But what it asks cannot be answered by biography. “Who am I?” is an ultimate question. In humanity’s *identity crisis*, the final quest isn’t to explore distant galaxies but to discover *who we are*.

Materialistic evolutionists say we got here by a series of accidents. If so, we’re *orphans*, owing our existence to chance. Deists say God abandoned creation to mechanical rule of nature. If so, we are *machines*, with our lives, choices and destiny controlled by mindless law. Pantheism says everything is God. If so, we are *illusions*, fooled by our apparent distinction from rocks, trees, ants, etc.

The Trinity of the Bible gives us a nobler identity: “*Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness.*” That “*likeness*” includes a capacity for personal union. Spouses become “*one flesh*” in marriage, yet remain distinct individuals, just as the one God remains eternally Father, Son and Holy Spirit.



As God’s image-bearers, our identity is rooted in the Almighty “I AM.” Our answer to “*Who am I?*” comes only by recognizing our relation to the I AM who made us. When Jesus said, “*before Abraham was, I AM,*” He was revealing who He was. When we receive Jesus as our Savior, our union with Him allows us to fulfill our true human identity.

Discovering *who we are* is basic to *why we are, what we’re to do and how.* This makes knowing Christ our highest priority. In facing the ups and downs of life as a Christian, our best first-step to success is to remember *who we are* in Christ and ask that familiar question, “What would Jesus do?” – *Pastor David*

Parish Proclamations

- During this month, free bookmarks with a “thanksgiving” message from VCC are available in the Mail Room.
- This November, VCC is collecting donations for a Thanksgiving gift to help World Hope International’s “Hurricane Relief” efforts. Envelopes for this project are on the table at the Music Room entrance on Sundays and can be put into the offering plate.
- As pastors, we are often unaware of when residents attending VCC are ill or hospitalized. So, we’re seeking volunteers for a *pastor-partner team* to alert us to visitation needs and to join us in visiting those needing it. If interested, sign up during Sunday services in November or give Pastor David a call or text (916-605-9615).
- Congratulations to Pastor Dawn, who recently joined the rest of the VCC Team in the status of being retired!

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Personal Pulpit

(Short biographical sketches from the members of the VCC team.)

Rev. Terry A. Brown

I was born in 1950 to a US Air Force family in Carlisle, PA, and grew up in the military way of life. I served in the

US Air Force too, from 1970-72. April 24, 1976, I married the woman of my dreams, Bonna. We have one son.

In the Air Force I read regularly. On discharge, the family Bible at home seemed to say, “read me, read me,” so I did. While reading through the Gospels, I accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and was baptized March of 1973.

I’ve been across the USA a few times, but have also lived in Germany, Philippines and Turkey, allowing me to see life from other cultural perspectives. In 2007, I got to take a marvelous two-week Biblical Studies Tour in Israel.

I took art classes at ARC (1983), worked for SBC (now AT&T) until 2001, came to VCC in 2003, and completed my ministerial studies for ordination in 2007. In 2015, I retired from janitorial work for the USPS.

Retirement gives me more time for my hobbies, which are Bible study, reading, caring for my house, playing the violin, Civil War reenacting and oil painting. With all that, I often wonder, “How did I ever hold down a job?!”

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Terry Evensizer

I was born in September of 1936 on a farm near Ashley, ND. My military family went where my dad went, but

because he was on the abuse side, I was raised by my mom's parents on the farm.

When I sang in the church children's choir, the director told my grandpa, "Terry has a beautiful voice. You should take him for voice lessons." So, Grandpa drove me 125 miles north to Bismarck on Saturdays for a 2-hour voice lesson, studying German opera, which I can't sing today. At age 15, I moved to Lodi, CA, where one of my high school classes was a mixed choir. In the 10th grade, I moved into the Chapella Choir.

Upon graduating I was in the military for 20 years, stationed in Washington, Oregon, California, Texas, Panama, Crete, and Vietnam. In 1969, when I lost my best friend in Vietnam, my faith fell dormant. I didn't come back to God till 1996, at a "Promise Keepers" crusade. On March 4, 2007 at Arcade Wesleyan Church (now Faith Legacy Church), I was re-baptized by Pastor Terry Brown.

After retirement from the Military, I worked 22½ years for the California Secretary of State, retiring in 2001. Now, for more than 13 years, I've been singing with God and the people in our little church here at Eskaton Village.

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Pastor David and Rosemary Hatton

My wife and I came to faith in Christ early in life. We met in Greenville, SC, married in 1971, and graduated together from Maranatha Baptist Bible College in 1972. We have 3 daughters, 9 sons—the last born during VCC's first year—17 grandchildren, another on the way, and one great-granddaughter.

During the Jesus Movement, we were in Northern Calif. with Gospel Outreach, then with Jeunesse en Mission (YWAM) in Quebec. After returning to California, I got my RN and started working in the ER. After obtaining my M.A. degree in Berkeley, we moved to Sacramento and joined Arcade Wesleyan Church.

Shortly after moving here, I switched from ER nursing to L&D and started ministerial studies for ordination. It was then that Pastor Phil Stevenson of AWC found that the Religious Concerns Committee was contemplating having a church at Eskaton. In January of 1996, Craig Evans, Rosemary and I started what is now VCC. Craig soon left, but Rosemary and I stayed at the piano and in the pulpit.

Before retiring from nursing in 2015, I took 600+ hours in massage therapy to become a CMT. I also began art classes at ARC as a new hobby. But most of my

retirement so far has been taken up with writing. My lovely wife is an avid reader and a rose gardener. When we can get away together, it's usually to do waterfall hiking we love so much.

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Pastor Dawn Valerio

I was not raised in a Christian home, but as a young girl I felt like something was missing from my life. In 6th grade, a friend at school invited me to church. After hearing the Gospel, I knew it was Jesus I was missing in my life. It wasn't long after that I gave my heart to Him! Then I invited my sister, and soon afterwards, my parents to come with me to church, where they in turn gave their lives to Christ. I'd always loved music, and now I could use that gift for Him.

Throughout my school and college days, I served Christ through music. I was led eventually to what is now Faith Legacy, where I served as music director for some 30 years. On coming to VCC, FLC commissioned me as a local church minister, and for more than 10 years, I've joyfully served as the worship pastor for VCC at Eskaton, occasionally bringing the Sunday morning message. I say with the familiar doxology, "*Praise God from Whom all blessings flow!*"

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Pithy Pieces

WHAT GOD HAS FOR YOU:

A LIGHT for every shadow,
A PLAN for each tomorrow,
A KEY for every problem,
A BALM for every sorrow.

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If we weren't meant to keep starting over, why then did God grant us Monday? —*Anonymous*

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The greatest pleasure I know is to do a good action by stealth, and to have it found out by accident.

— *Charles Lamb*

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Prayer may not change things for you, but it for sure changes you for things.

— *Samuel M. Shoemaker*

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Praise's Portion

Great and holy is the Lord, the holiest of holy ones for every generation. Majesty precedes him, and following him is the rush of many waters. Grace and truth surround his presence; truth and justice and righteousness are the foundation of his throne. Separating light from deep darkness, by the knowledge of his mind he

established the dawn.
When all his angels had witnessed it,
they sang aloud; for he showed them
what they had not known;
Crowning the hills with fruit, good
food for every living being.
Blessed be he who makes the earth by
his power, establishing the world in
his wisdom.
In his understanding he stretched out
the heavens and brought forth with
from his storehouses.
He made lightning for the rain and
caused mists to rise from the end of
the earth. – from *Dead Sea Scrolls*

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Prayer's Priority

Good Morning, God!

You are ushering in another day
Untouched and freshly new.
So here I come to ask You, God,
If you'll renew me too.
Forgive the many errors
That I made yesterday
And let me try again, dear God,
To walk closer in Thy Way....
But, Father, I am well aware
I can't make it on my own
So take my hand and hold it tight,
For I can't walk alone!

— *Helen Steiner Rice*

Pearls of Prudence

What It's OK for Older Folks to Do

1. Spend more time dreaming, hoping and planning—and less time regretting.
2. Take up a new hobby—or resume an old one. Paintbrushes, tennis rackets and pens don't know or care how old you are.
3. Don't fear packing your life with lots of activities and interests. Since you're over the hill, it's OK to pick up speed.
4. Listen to the music you like. Don't worry about what your friends might say. Anyway, they probably can't hear it.
5. Learn to chuckle good-naturedly, wag your head, and say, “*You'll see*” to win arguments with younger people.
6. Be generous with your stuff before you're gone and family tosses it out.
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 your age, it's proper etiquette to say you heard the sermon, even if you were awake only as it started or ended.
10. Don't hesitate to say “I told you so” to your kids, or anyone else too stubborn to listen to your experienced advice.
11. Be real with people. Have strong opinions and voice them.
12. Support the causes you believe in,

not just the ones the celebrities promote.
13. If you disagree with popular opinion,
ignore it (it's been wrong before.)
14. Silently listen to learn what's new,
but speak up to share the wisdom and
traditions you've learned in the past.
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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Pleasurable Pastime

My Forgetter's Getting Better

While my forgetter's getting better,
My rememberer is broke.
To you that may seem funny,
But, to me, it's not a joke.

When I am *here* I'm wondering,
"Should I, in fact, be *there*?"
And, when I try to think it through,
I haven't got a prayer!

Often, I enter a room and ask,
"What did I come here for?"
I wrack my brain, but all in vain!
A zero, is my score.

At times, I put some thing away
Where it is safe (Hee, hee!)
The person it is safest from
Seems always to be me!

When shopping, I may see someone,
Say "Hi," and have a chat.
Then, when the person walks away,
I wonder, "who was that?"

Yes, my forgetter's getting better.
My rememberer is broke.
And it's driving me plumb crazy
And that isn't any joke.

— *adapted from Anonymous*

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Proverb Prescriptions

God dwells wherever man lets him in.

— *Menahem Mendel of Kotzk*

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Half of the harm that is done in this
world is due to people who want to feel
important. — *T. S. Eliot*

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But men must know that in this theater
of man's life it is reserved only for God
and angels to be lookers on.

— *Sir Francis Bacon*

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A friend is a gift you give yourself.

— *Robert Louis Stevenson*

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God has cast our confessed sins into
the depths of the sea, and He's even put
a "No Fishing" sign over the spot.

— *Dwight L. Moody*

Priceless Prose

LIFE'S MIRROR

by Madeline S. Bridges

There are loyal hearts,
there are spirits brave,
There are souls that are pure and true;
Then give to the world
the best that you have,
And the best will come back to you.

Give love, and love
to your life will flow,
A strength in your utmost need;
Have faith, and a score
of hearts will show
Their faith in your work and deed.

Give truth, and your gift
will be paid in kind,
And honor will honor meet;
And the smile which is sweet
will surely find
A smile that is just as sweet.

Give sorrow and pity
to those who mourn;
You will gather in flowers again,
The scattered seeds
from your thought outborne
Though the sowing seemed but vain.

For life is the mirror
of king and slave,
'Tis just what we are and do;
Then give to the world
the best that you have
And the best will come back to you.

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Precious Principles

(quotes from *Our Daily Bread*)

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Our job is not to see through one
another, but to see one another through.

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There is only One who knows
All the answers to my woes;
He will all my needs supply,
When in faith to Him I cry.

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Our greatest wealth is not measured in
terms of riches but relationships.

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Find out what God would have you do
And do that little well,
For what is great and what is small
The Lord alone can tell.

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There never is a night or day
When God won't hear us as we pray;
There is no time, there is no place,
When He'll withhold His love and grace.



Serving Residents at Eskaton

Village Community Church offers an opportunity for interdenominational Christian worship under the sponsorship of Faith Legacy 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, a retired RN,

leads VCC with the help of Rev. Terry A. Brown and Pastor Dawn Valerio. All three are available for pastoral visits and spiritual counsel by request. Our team also includes Rosemary Hatton, pianist, and Terry Evensizer, assistant.

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, 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
3532 Whitney Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95821

Fall – 2017