



News In Pews Newsletter

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Ebenezer United Methodist Church
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Pastor's Corner



Being Sent to the Grave

By
Rev. Ted Keen

I mentioned in a sermon recently that I had started to read the journals of John Wesley. These journals essentially begin with Wesley's journey from England to the colony of Georgia in 1735. As I preached I stated that Wesley boarded a ship called the *Gravesend*. Actually, Gravesend was the name of the port city in England from where the ship departed. Either way, John Wesley could not have possibly known the irony that name would have in his future.

By any standard, the young John Wesley was a fine Christian man and future minister. While studying at college, John, his brother Charles and some friends

started the Holy Club. This group of young Christian students visited prisons and hospitals, fed the poor and homeless, and spent a great deal of time reading scripture and praying. After his studies, Wesley must have looked forward to a promising career in Christian ministry. By the time he left the town of Gravesend, Wesley's whole life stood before him.

While working for General James Oglethorpe in Savannah, Wesley felt confident of his ability to spread the gospel to the natives. In addition, he had met and fell in love with a woman named Sophia Hopkey. Neither his mission in Georgia nor his relationship with Sophia worked out, and Wesley returned to England depressed and with his reputation as a dynamic young pastor in tatters. His life up to that point had truly been "sent to the grave."

Jesus once told his disciples that "whoever loses his life for me will save it." Most of us have heard

something similar to this statement: "Where a door is closed, God opens a window." While we may not be able to see it at the time, it is often during times of difficulty, when everything in our lives seems lost, that God truly works wonders. I know that some of the people and words I remember most came during the darkest periods of my life, and many of you have told me similar stories from your lives. Our God is indeed an awesome God and never gives up on us during these times.

Not long after returning to England in a state of depression, John Wesley wandered to Aldersgate Street in London to attend a worship service. While there, he heard a man reading from Martin Luther's Preface to the Epistle to Romans. As he listened, Wesley felt his "heart strangely warmed." This experience, in spite of his failures in life, led Wesley to a renewed sense of faith in a God

(Continued on page 3)

MYF Youth News:

Thanksgiving - - The youth will not be meeting on the 17th or the 24th of November. On the 17th, the youth will join the Church at the annual Thanksgiving dinner.

Christmas Parade -- Mark your calendars for Forsyth's annual Christmas Parade, December 2. This year's theme is "A *Storybook Christmas*". The youth will enter a float in the parade and volunteers are needed to help design, build and man the float. Put on your thinking caps and help us come up with a creative float.

THANK YOU -- The youth always appreciate the support of our church family in our many activities. Many church members volunteer to provide a fellowship meal for the youth on Wednesday evenings, and please know that we thank you for each and every way you support the youth.



God's Minute

REJOICE ALWAYS, PRAY WITHOUT CEASING, IN EVERY-THING GIVE THANKS; FOR THIS IS THE WILL OF GOD IN CHRIST JESUS FOR YOU.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18

We are to rejoice even when one of our prayers isn't answered the way we want. Now that may seem hard to do but when we realize that God knows what is best for us, it becomes easier to understand! For some of our prayers, if answered, could cause us much grief in the long run. After all only He knows what the future holds, and what is best for us!

So; **Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; (Philippians 4:6) because;**

The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

(James 5:16)

There is also an added benefit to your prayers, for they will lead you to a greater communion with God, and a much greater understanding of His will for you as well!

AND SPEAKING OF PRAYER,

I said a prayer for you today,
And I know God must have heard;
I felt the answer in my heart,
Although He spoke not a word.
I didn't ask for wealth or fame,
(I knew you wouldn't mind;)
I asked for priceless treasures rare,
Of a more lasting kind.
I prayed that He'd be near to you,
At the start of each new day,
To grant you health
and blessings fair,
And friends to share your way.
I asked for happiness for you,
In all thing great and small,
But that you'd know His loving care,
I prayed most of all. Amen.

“WORDS TO LIVE BY”

"To celebrate growing older, I once wrote the 45 lessons life taught me. It is the most requested column I've ever written. My odometer rolled over to 90 in August, so here is the column once more:

- 1) Life isn't fair, but it's still good.
- 2) When in doubt, just take the next small step.
- 3) Life is too short to waste time hating anyone.
- 4) Your job won't take care of you when you are sick. Your friends and parents will. Stay in touch.
- 5) Pay off your credit cards every month.
- 6) You don't have to win every argument. Agree to disagree.
- 7) Cry with someone. It's more healing than crying alone.
- 8) It's OK to get angry with God. He can take it.
- 9) Save for retirement starting with your first paycheck.
- 10) When it comes to chocolate, resistance is futile.
- 11) Make peace with your past so it won't screw up the present.
- 12) It's OK to let your children see you cry.
- 13) Don't compare your life to others. You have no idea what their journey is all about.
- 14) If a relationship has to be a secret, you shouldn't be in it.
- 15) Everything can change in the blink of an eye. But don't worry; God never blinks.
- 16) Take a deep breath. It calms the mind.
- 17) Get rid of anything that isn't useful, beautiful or joyful.
- 18) Whatever doesn't kill you really does make you stronger.
- 19) It's never too late to have a happy childhood. But the second one is up to you and no one else.
- 20) When it comes to going after what you love in life, don't take no for an answer.
- 21) Burn the candles, use the nice sheets, wear the

fancy lingerie. Don't save it for a special occasion. Today is special.

- 22) Over prepare, then go with the flow.
- 23) Be eccentric now. Don't wait for old age to wear purple.
- 24) The most important sex organ is the brain.
- 25) No one is in charge of your happiness but you.
- 26) Frame every so-called disaster with these words 'In five years, will this matter?'
- 27) Always choose life.
- 28) Forgive everyone everything.
- 29) What other people think of you is none of your business.
- 30) Time heals almost everything. Give time, time.
- 31) However good or bad a situation is, it will change.
- 32) Don't take yourself so seriously. No one else does.
- 33) Believe in miracles.
- 34) God loves you because of who God is, not because of anything you did or didn't do.
- 35) Don't audit life. Show up and make the most of it now.
- 36) Growing old beats the alternative -- dying young.
- 37) Your children get only one childhood.
- 38) All that truly matters in the end is that you loved.
- 39) Get outside every day. Miracles are waiting everywhere.
- 40) If we all threw our problems in a pile and saw everyone else's, we'd grab ours back.
- 41) Envy is a waste of time. You already have all you need.
- 42) The best is yet to come...
- 43) No matter how you feel, get up, dress up and show up.
- 44) Yield.
- 45) Life isn't tied with a bow, but it's still a gift."

Written by Regina Brett, 90 years old, of the Plain Dealer, Cleveland, Ohio

“The Rhythm of Silence and Word”

Silence is the time when we withdraw from our addiction to noise, words, and activity. And so in silence we withdraw from our own inner compulsions, not just the expectations of other people, but from our addiction to our own thoughts and words. And so we develop this rhythm of silence and word.

Bonheoffer says right words come out of right silence, and right silence comes out of right words—an interplay between silence and word. Scriptures also tell us that in a multitude of words, there is much transgression. What's the solution to that? To shut our mouths every so often, so that we can hear a word from the Lord. One of the reasons we don't hear a word from the Lord and yet long for one is that we never stop the flow of our own words. How in the world are we going to hear something from God if we're always talking?

A Soul in God's Presence - Silence challenges us on every level of our being. When we're silent, we have to face ourselves. We might notice our own discomfort and anxiety, and we don't want to do that. We feel if we can just fill up the time, we don't have to face our true selves.

The human psyche is very good at distracting us and finding ways to keep us from being aware of those things we'd rather not be aware of—our loneliness, our emptiness, relationships that aren't working, questions that make us uncomfortable. That's one reason why silence before God makes us uncomfortable—because we

have to face what's real and what's not real between us and God. I have to face my questions, my loneliness, my brokenness. It's much easier for us to identify with our achievements, skills, personas, titles, and roles. That's a much more comfortable arena. And there's a lot of fodder for the ego in that arena. To feel that I can do something about this, that, or the other feeds my ego. Silence actually starves the ego, because the normal things that the ego loves to feed on aren't there anymore, and now we're just us—a soul in God's presence.

No Evaluations - We evaluate everything. We even bring it into our relationship with God, which is a travesty. We come into solitude and say, Okay, God, we're going to be together for this amount of time. I'm giving you my full, undivided attention. And whatever happens here I'm going to believe is what you intended because I'm not in control here; you are. And then we leave that time and evaluate it. We judge it and say, "I didn't get anything out of that."

Think about being with your spouse in a time of intimacy. Then you look back on it, evaluate it, and say, "That didn't do anything for me." How does that cheapen the relating? We don't do that with a person we love. We just receive the time for what it is and are grateful for it.

That's the way I see solitude and silence—a time to be with God very intimately, and whatever it is, we're grateful for it. It's meaningful because we are with this person that we enjoy and love.

"This article first appeared on Kyria.com. Used by permission of Christianity Today International, Carol Stream, IL 60188."

(Continued from page 1) Being Sent

who would do great things through him. The founder of Methodism remains today one of the most influential Christians in history.

God has a purpose and a plan for your life. All of us were created to glorify God in our living and in our relationships. If you are not sure what God's plan is for you, I encourage you to pray about it. If there are obstacles that might keep you from following that plan, then maybe now is the time to "send those obstacles to the grave." A new Christian year is just around the corner for you and for Ebenezer Church. May we discover our plan and may we glorify our Lord.

Blessings,
Ted

Time to Pray

Sometimes in the hustle and the bustle of the day, I try so hard to stay afloat that I forget to pray. And though I know the answer to my struggle lies in You, often You are the last one that I will turn to.

When life's seas get stormy and I feel myself fall, I cast about for a pillar that holds against the squall. Till beaten, bruised, and battered I remember You once more, and seek the safe harbor found upon Your shore.

When life's seas get stormy and I feel myself fall, I cast about for a pillar that holds against the squall. Till beaten, bruised and battered I remember You once more, and seek the safe harbor found upon Your shore.

Oh, if I but had wisdom to constantly seek Your face, and trust my life and future to Your redeeming grace, then no matter what challenge or barrier came my way nothing would overwhelm me, if I took time to pray.

MYF YOUTH GROUP

November meeting dates:

Nov. 3
Nov. 10

The MYF Youth group need volunteers to provide dinners for the above dates. Not choosy, will eat all most any thing - except maybe liver.

The youth will not meet on the 17th or the 24th.

FAMILY GAME NIGHT

Build a hotel on boardwalk, land on payday, accuse Miss Scarlet with a wrench in the dining room. Whatever your taste, come out and have some fun at our first Family Game Night at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, November 12th, in the Fellowship Hall. Snacks will be provided.



THANKSGIVING DINNER

The Church's annual Thanksgiving dinner will be Wednesday, November 17th. Volunteers are needed to cook the turkeys and hams. Let Dot Duckworth know if you are willing to help with this. Bring your favorite dish for your Thanksgiving dinner.



EVENING PRAYER SERVICE

Join us for our Evening Prayer Service on Sunday evenings at 6:00. This is a very informal service, come as you are. If you have concerns, needs or just feel like you need to pray for someone or something, this is a great opportunity to do so. This is also a great way to close out your day of worship.

CALLING ALL KIDS and ADULTS!!

Thirsting for the knowledge? Have questions about God and Christ? Want to know the meaning of Life? Come to Sunday School and start on your quest for the answers to these questions and many more. Sunday School starts at 10:00 a.m. Be sure to come and bring a friend.



The choir is always looking for new members, young or old.

If you would like to join us in praising the Lord with song, please join us on Wednesdays at 6:30.



"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord!"

The Name of the Lord

*Blessed be the name of the Lord,
Blessed be the name of the Lord,
Blessed be the name of the Lord
most high,*

*Holy is the name of the Lord,
Holy is the name of the Lord,
Holy is the name of the Lord most
high,*

*The name of the Lord is a strong
tower.*

*The righteous run into it
and they are safe.*

*Glory to the name of the Lord,
Glory to the name of the Lord,
Glory to the name of the Lord
most high.*

-Clinton Utterbach

A name is a wonderful thing. It sets you apart from the mass of humanity. That's why when a baby is born the very first thing parents do is give the child a name. And as that child grows and expresses his or her personality, his name comes to symbolize his character. It conjures up all that he is about: likes, dislikes, temperament, passions and convictions.

Think about it. When you hear the name Abraham Lincoln, you can't help but think of a man of integrity who bravely led our nation through one of

the most difficult periods of our history. When someone talks about Billy Graham or Mother Teresa, a picture emerges in your mind. You think of what set them apart from others and the wonderful things they accomplished.

For the psalmist that same kind of name association took place. The mere mention of the Lord's name caused him to think of all that He had done for him. God's greatness towered above all of life. No wonder he likened the Lord's name to a strong tower. Just like a fortress rising high above all other structures in Jerusalem, the Lord's presence could never be overshadowed. We can run into His presence and be assured of safety.

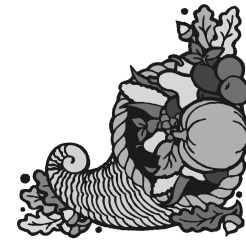


The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe.

Proverbs 18:10

PRAYER

Make a personal inventory of circumstances or individuals that trigger fear in your heart. Surrender them to the Lord. Ask Him to be your strong tower as you pray in His mighty name.

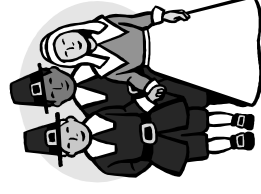


BIRTHDAYS!!!!

- 11/03 Harriet Laurence
- 11/05 Kathy Covington
- 11/05 Elizabeth Holliman
- 11/05 Thomas Pearman
- 11/09 Benjamin Howard
- 11/18 Chasity Newton
- 11/22 Alec Remick
- 11/28 John Ham, Sr.
- 11/28 Lisa Baker




Ebenezer United Methodist Church November 2010



**HAPPY
ANNIVERSARY!!!**

- 11/22 Mr. & Mrs. Cecil Edge
- 11/29 Mr. & Mrs. John Laurence

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
October 2010 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1 Revival 7 p.m. All Saints Day	2 Revival 7 p.m. Election Day	3 MYF - 6:00 p.m. Choir - 6:30 p.m.	4	5	6
7 Sunday School - 10 a.m. Worship Service - 11 a.m. Disciple Bible Study 4:30 Evening Prayer - 6 p.m. Daylight Saving Time ends	8	9	10 MYF - 6:00 p.m. Choir - 6:30 p.m.	11 Veterans Day Remembrance Day	12	13
14 Sunday School - 10 a.m. Worship Service - 11 a.m. Disciple Bible Study 4:30 Evening Prayer - 6 p.m.	15	16	17 Thanksgiving Dinner	18	19	20
21 Sunday School - 10 a.m. Worship Service - 11 a.m. Disciple Bible Study 4:30 Evening Prayer - 6 p.m.	22	23	24 Choir - 6:30 p.m.	25  Thanksgiving Day	26	27
28 Sunday School - 10 a.m. Worship Service - 11 a.m. Disciple Bible Study 4:30 Evening Prayer - 6 p.m.	29 Forsyth Christmas Tree Lighting	30				December 2010 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

American Diabetes Month
www.diabetes.org

Epilepsy Awareness Month
www.epilepsyfoundation.org