

Pastor's Pondering

I recently read the book, *The Shack* by William P. Young. I experienced the book as compelling and hard to put down. It is a fictitious narration of a person's direct encounter with God after experiencing a tragedy.

Some aspects challenged my understanding of God in a healthy way which nurtured my spiritual growth. Other parts of the book articulated so clearly and brilliantly what I believe about God that I was drawn into a deeper relationship with God.

I don't often recommend to everyone that they read a book, but I do with *The Shack*. Even if it challenges your concepts of God, it will provide a place to begin conversation about who God is. The winter months can seem long and dark. Give *The Shack* a chance to brighten up your winter. Consider reading it and then passing it on to a friend. May it be a starting point for conversations you have with others about God's amazing love.

Pastor Tim

PRAYER REQUESTS

OUR MILITARY: Phillip Slocum, Joshua Gloria, Courtney Marulli, and Brittany Shute

George & Marcie DeGraeve	Dan Pardee	Ghering Family
Rose Greane	Kim & Mary	Elizabeth Koski
Angeline Genia	Marsha	Rose Kassube
Phyllis John	John	Rosemary & Howard
Russel and Karen	Rosauca Pajol	Chris and Libby
Luch Funk	Don & Carol	Marsha Stewart
Margo & Kala	Matthew B.	Janice Smith
Dan McCreery	Shirley E.	Shirley Oldman
Carolynb Satori	Scott	Mildred Siegel
Calvin Hill	Little Nicole	Ty Russell
Trimper Family	Matthew Cross	Kevin & Emily Calhoon
Glen & Linda	Kay	Debra Belamy
Fran Tollas	Molly Tate	Border Patrol

Homeless and oppressed people throughout the world

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BIRTHDAYS

DECEMBER

1 Doreen Wilson
5 Walter Lynch
6 Kathleen Willis
6 Sam McClellan
7 Jennifer Elzinga
10 robin Johnson
13 Roger Tally
15 Jim Hartwell
18 Margo Kalilimoku
19 Linda Roznoski
25 Happy Birthday Jesus!
27 Lynn Groves
27 Mark Perry
28 Quintin Walker II
30 Carl Scott Litchfield
31 Christopher Demanaeus

JANUARY

1 Dufy Johnson
3 Debby Slocum
3 Jessica Dominic
6 Mike Marchewitz
7 Carol Tunison
17 Joey Elzinga
19 Alice Harvey
19 Valerie Williams
22 Carol Adams
24 Jared Willis
25 Dorothy Westover
26 Nancy Koontz
29 Jack Cross
29 Rebecca Glotfelty
30 Rebecca Ghaham

FEBRUARY

2 Kara Perry
3 Clayton Walker
7 Rose Great
7 Daugherty Johnson
11 Dan McCreery
18 Richard Tunison
20 Irene Mitchell
22 Molly Tate
27 Marcie DeGrave

Liturgists

DECEMBER

7 Kevin Willis
14 Craig Adams
21 Judy Johnson
28 Craig Adams

JANUARY

4
11
18
25

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Anniversaries

DECEMBER

3 George & Leone Honson

JANUARY

4 Quintin & Nancy Walker
11 Richard & Carol Tunison
11 Paul & Kara Johnson

FEBRUARY

26 Byron & Colleen Wright

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HOLIDAY SCHEDULE AT GREENSKY HILL

Don't look now, but the holiday season is fast approaching, and we want to inform you of the various "holiday happenings" at Greensky Hill.

TUESDAY- DECEMBER 2nd- The Greensky Hill UMW will be having their annual Women's Christmas Gathering at Lynn Groves' home starting at 6 PM. The women will have their usual wrapped gift exchange (\$ 5- \$7). Come enjoy a wonderful evening of fellowship.

SUNDAY- DECEMBER 14th- Our annual Church Christmas Party will begin at 12:30 PM. As usual, we'll start with a delicious potluck dinner (please bring your favorite recipe dish to pass) followed by the Gift Exchange Game. Please bring a wrapped present with a value of \$5-\$10 (homemade gifts are great). The gifts are exchanged several times. For an enjoyable afternoon, don't forget our Church Christmas Party.

WEDNESDAY- DECEMBER 24th- Christmas Eve Service will start at 7:30 PM. Weather permitting, luminaries will be placed along the driveway. (Be sure to bring CLEAN milk jugs to church through the month for luminaries). After the service, there will be a short fellowship with finger foods, cookies, coffee, tea, and punch. Invite family and friends to come.

THE JESSE TREE

And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: and the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him.

Isaiah 11: 1-2

The symbol of the Jesse Tree comes from this passage in the Book of Isaiah. Each branch- each leaf of the tree- is a story rooted deep in Scripture that tells of the relationship between God and God's people. The symbols on the Jesse Tree represent a Biblical "family tree," and Christ is grafted onto the family tree of Jesse, the father of the great King David.

With the Chi Rho- the Greek monogram for Christ—the Jesse Tree is whole again, filled with the stories of God's faithfulness to his people. Perhaps we have almost forgotten the stump from which it grew.

But it doesn't stop growing... it hasn't stopped for centuries. For years the branches have grown. For years the branches have faced the diseases of heresies and wrong thinking, human cruelty, arrogant clergy, apathetic congregations, war and bigotry. Humanity has done its level best to knock the stuffing out of the power of the Gospel

and cut the heart out of the Church. Yet, always, a remnant hangs on to the Good News. Always a shoot springs forth from what looks to be the deadest of the branches.

God is still faithful. The story continues. The tree grows. There is no more amazing story in all human history than the one we celebrate at Christmas- that at one time in our history God came to us and nothing was ever the same, or will be, again.

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY, GENTLE JESUS. HAPPY BIRTHDAY, LITTLE BOY. HAPPY
BIRTHDAY, SAVIOR MINE. THANKS FOR COMING . AMEN

Debra Grant

MESSENGER OF HOPE (Generations Vol. 2 Issue 1)

One of the great themes of the Advent and Christmas seasons is hope. Jesus' entry into the human condition; his acts of love; and his suffering, death, and Resurrection teach us that hope exists for a better world. The end of the story has already been written, and we can have confidence in the chance of eternal happiness because our God has redeemed us by the sacrifice of his Son.

How can you have hope for a world filled with suffering, war, hunger, and despair ?
During this Advent Season, consider committing to one or more of the following:

Be optimistic and positive when those around you are being negative.

Look for the good in each person you encounter.

Make a donation to an agency(e.g. Salvation Army, Charlevoix Food Pantry) to bring hope to those in the most desperate living conditions.

Examine your conscience at the end of each day by asking if the world is a little bit better because of your presence in it today.

PEACE

Peace in my heart- this is my prayer
Quiet contentment, to have and to share,
Each new tomorrow, blessed and real
Each wondrous dawning, a daybreak ideal.

Peace in my home, this I would ask
Sharing each burden, to lighten our task,
Laughter abundant, so much that's worthwhile
Faith, hope and courage- a bright happy smile.

Peace in this country, this is my dream
Peace we might cherish- joyous, supreme,
No more of hatred, no more of crime
Peacefulness only, in your heart and mine.

Peace in our world, this is my prayer
With one God to guide us, and one God to care,
All of us neighbors, then surely we'll see
That peace is the answer to eternity.

Garnett Ann Schultz

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Greensky Hill UMC Council Meeting
October 21, 2008

Council meeting opened at 7:10 with prayer led by Pastor Tim Wright. Attending were: Dennis and Bonnie Dominic, Carol and Craig Adams, Judy and Daugherty Johnson, Carol and Richard Tunison, and Susan Bice.

The minutes of the September council meeting were read and approved with corrections.

Treasure's Report was discussed. Letter of resolution will be prepared in order to update signatories on our bank accounts. The 2009 budget will be discussed and approved at the next council meeting.

Pastor's Report:

Application for Equitable Compensation has been prepared and submitted.

Bible Study has been cancelled. The next lesson will be presented at this Sunday evening service.

We've received a request to hold the Indian Education Program for Charlevoix and Petoskey High Schools at Susan Hall on November 14, 9-2:30. Motion made we waive any fees for this group. Motion carried.

Pastor Tim will discuss with Horton Bay UMC the possibility of starting their service at 11AM so he may have time for fellowship at Greensky Hill.

Christmas Eve Service: Anyone who may be interested in helping organize this please advise Pastor Tim.

Standing Committee Reports:

Trustees will meet Thursday at 6.

Men's Club: Met last Tuesday to work on sugar shack.

Vitiation Committee: On Oct. 8 nine people went to Grandview.

UMW: Will met in November, funds will be disbursed; Susan Hall at 7.

Scholarship Committee of Bonnie Dominic, Judy Johnson, and possibly Mike Mitchell will be appointed.

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Finance Committee: Will set budget for 2009 at next council meeting.

Worship Committee: Has not met.

Newsletter: There will be one more issue for this year; 110 copies of last issue were made; 59 were mailed.

Old Business:

A game night was suggested.

New Business:

A suggestion was made to form a kitchen committee to oversee kitchen inventory, dates on food items, and to generally make sure our kitchen is in compliance with our Health Dept. license. If anyone is interested contact Sue Bice. Motion to approve was made and passed.

Hanging of the greens will be on November 30 3-5PM, potluck after the 5PM service.

UMW Christmas party will be December 2 at Lynn's home with gift exchange.

Church Christmas Party is December 14 at 12:30, with gift exchange game.

Christmas Eve Service is Wednesday Dec. 24 at 7:30 followed by fellowship and cookies.

Pastor Tim will be on vacation November 8-15, Judy will preach on the 9th.

Open Comments: Pastor Tim updated council re. Calvin Hill.

Ghost supper will be November 1st.

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned at 9PM. Next council meeting will be November 18 at 7PM.

Respectfully submitted

Susan Bice

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THE I BELIEVES FOR 2009

I Believe...

I believe that we don't have to change if we understand that friends change.

I believe that no matter how good a friend is, they're going to hurt you every once in a while and you must forgive them for that.

I believe that true friendship continues to grow, even over long distance. Same goes for true love.

I believe that you can do something in an instant that will give you heartache for life.

I believe that it's taking me a long time to become the person I want to be.

I believe that you should always leave loved ones with loving words. It may be the last time you see them.

I believe that you can keep going long after you can't.

I believe that either you control your attitude or it controls you.

I believe that regardless of how hot and steamy a relationship is at first, the passion fades and there had better be something else to take its place.

I believe that heroes are the people who do what has to be done when it needs to be done, regardless of the consequences.

I believe that money is a lousy way of keeping score.

I believe that my best friend and I can do anything or nothing and have the best time.

I believe that sometimes the people you expect to kick you when you're down, will be the ones to help you get back up.

I believe that sometimes when I'm angry I have the right to be angry, but that doesn't give me the right to be cruel.

I believe that just because someone doesn't love you the way you like them to doesn't mean they don't love you with all they have.

Pastor Ponderings

I believe that maturity has more to do with the types of experiences you've had and what you've learned from them and less to do with how many birthdays you've celebrated.

I believe that no matter how bad your heart is broken, the world doesn't stop for your grief.

I believe that our background and circumstances may have influenced who we are, but we are responsible for who we become.

I believe that just because two people argue, it doesn't mean they don't love each other and just because they don't argue, it doesn't mean they do.

I believe that you shouldn't be so eager to find out a secret. It could change you forever.

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I believe that two people can look at the same exact thing and see something totally different.

I believe that your life can be changed in a matter of hours by people who don't even know you.

I believe that even when you think you have no more to give, when a friend cries out to you, you will find the strength to help.

I believe that credentials on the wall do not make you a decent human being.

I believe that the people you care about most in life are taken from you too soon.

HEALTH CORNER

Foods That Fortify Memory

High Fiber Foods:

Whole grains, fruits and vegetables can help your memory by preventing borderline diabetes. Pre-diabetes has been linked to memory and word recognition trouble.

Fats From Fish:

People who eat fats from fish, especially omega-3s from salmon and trout, are less likely to develop memory problems.

Brain Vitamins:

Folic acid and Vitamin b-12 help with memory.

Reducing Your Sleep Debt

The bottom line is, the better you sleep, the better you'll feel. Another National Sleep Foundation survey found that older adults who slept well for seven to nine hours a night were more likely to have positive outlooks, an active lifestyle and fewer health problems than were older adults who got less sleep.

So what are the keys to better sleep? Here are three suggestions:

**Make sleep a priority-* Set aside adequate time for sleep, and only do what tasks you can get done with the time remaining, instead of taking the reverse approach.

**Sleep primarily at night-* Daytime naps may steal hours away from nighttime slumber. Limit daytime naps to 20 to 30 minutes and don't nap later than 3p.m. If you work nights, keep your window coverings closed so that sunlight, which adjusts the body's internal clock, doesn't interrupt your sleep.

**Go to bed when you're sleepy-* If you don't fall asleep within 30 minutes, get up and do something else. Go back to bed when you're tired. Don't "try" to fall asleep. The harder you try, the more awake you'll become.

Mayo Clinic Health Letter- August 2006

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GRIN AND BEAR IT!

An atheist was taking a walk through the woods. “What majestic trees! What powerful rivers! What beautiful animals!” he said to himself. He continued walking along the river when he heard a rustling in the bushes. Turning to look he saw a seven foot Grizzly bear charging toward him. He ran as fast as he could up the path and looking over his shoulder, saw the bear was catching up to him. His heart was pumping frantically and he tried to run even faster. He fell and rolled over to get up and saw the bear raise a paw to swipe at him. In that instant he cried out, “Oh my God, save me!”

The bear froze, the forest was silent, and a bright light shone down upon the man. A voice said, “You deny my existence for all these years, teach others I don’t exist and now you expect me to help you out of this predicament?”

The atheist looked into the light and replied, “It would be hypocritical of me to ask you to treat me as a Christian now, but perhaps you could make this bear a Christian”.

“Very well”, said the voice, and the light went out. The sounds of the forest resumed, and the bear lowered his paw. Then the bear bowed his head and spoke, “Lord, bless this food which I am about to receive and for which I am truly thankful. Amen!”

DON’T LOOK BACK

Looking back can sometimes bring trouble. A Sunday school teacher was telling about Lot’s wife, who looked back toward Sodom and Gomorrah and turned into a pillar of salt.

Prompted by those words, a boy said, “My mom was driving one day and suddenly looked back, too. She turned into a telephone pole.”