

Pastor's Pondering

God speaks to each of us through the prophet Isaiah saying, "See, I am doing a new thing... do you not perceive it?" Do you perceive the new growth God is sowing in your life?

God desires to grow the reality of the love of Jesus Christ within each of us 30, 60, and 100 fold. Our worship focus for September is *Being Fertile Soil* to receive Christ's growth within us. God is doing the sowing, watering, and growing. But, it is up to us to make the changes in our lives that enable them to become fertile ground for God's growth to occur.

Beginning in October our worship focus will be *The Five Practiced of Fruitful Congregations* (see related article about the Oct. 4th Workshop). These are not cookbook methods for church growth, but ways that we can open ourselves up to God's creative Spirit. We can then move forward in the presence of the "new thing" God is doing within us to become fruitful in ministry for Jesus Christ.

I encourage you to journey with us into becoming fertile soil, receiving Jesus Christ extraordinary growth within you, and growing in our fruitfulness by the creative power of God's Spirit.

Pastor Tim

Update from Calvin and Sheri Hill

Calvin Hill continues his seminary studies at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, IL. He hopes to complete his studies this year, but there are numerous uncertainties - financial and otherwise, that they hope to overcome. Calvin is working at a local body shop as a body tech and trying to balance studies, working, and having enough income to live on and pay for seminary.

Yessie, Calvin and Sheri's daughter graduated with a 3.4 GPA from Elk Grove High School this past June. There were difficulties with her classes transferring which required her to take classes through her lunchtime and in the evening, but she did it. She is the very first Native American student to graduate from Elk Grove High School. Yessie is now attending Harper College.

In Illinois it costs to send your children to "public" schools. So along with Calvin's seminary cost, Yessie's college costs, CeCe and LiLi's school tuition, there are normal living expenses. Please continue to keep the Hill family in prayer. If you wish to make a financial contribution, please make out your check to "Greensky Hill U.M. Church", put it in an envelope, and mark the envelope "Calvin Hill".

Greenskyhill.com

Please check out our web site at Greenskyhill.com. It is still being developed so if you have any suggestions, ideas, or comments please communicate them to us by clicking on the "Contact Us" button.

PRAYER LIST

Our military: Phillip Slocum and Joshua Gloria

George & Marcie DeGraeve	Dan Pardee	Ghering Family
Rose Greane	Kim and Mary	Pamela (Sharon's S. sister)
Angeline Genia	Lily Richardson	Rose Kassube
Phyllis John	Marsha	Rosemary and Howard
Russell and Karen	Dan Jeakle	Chris and Libby
Lucy Funk	Rosauco Pajol	Marsha Stewart
Margo and Kala	Dan and Carol	Herm Drenth
Dan McCreery	Matthew B.	Connie Pischner
Carolyn Satori	Shirley E.	Janice Smith
Calvin Hill	Scott	Shirley Oldman
Trimper Family	Little Nicole	Don and Sue
Glen and Linda	Matthew Cross	Mildred Spiegel
Lee's Family	Kay	Jakeway Family
Katie's Family	Fran Tollas	Michelle Mitchum

Our military and all oppressed people in the world

Liturgists**SEPTEMBER**

7 Al Colby, Jr.
14 Kathy Colby
21 Christopher Demanaeus
28 Rene Damanaeus

OCTOBER

5 Ray Bice
12 Dave Wasenaar
19 Dan Stout
26 Alice Harvey

NOVEMBER

2 Nancy A
9 Matt Koontz
16 Craig Adams
23 Richard Tunison
30 Clydell Willis

Birthdays**SEPTEMBER**

3 George DeGraeve
4 Paul Belding
15 Bonnie Dominic
21 Nancy Walker
23 Brenda Seamer

OCTOBER

11 Edward Oliver
11 Mildred Speigl
16 Clydell Willis
18 Joseph Elzinga Sr.
19 Leona Honson

NOVEMBER

1 Gregory Koontz
9 Jerry Elzinga
24 Lynette McCreery

Anniversaries**SEPTEMBER**

13 Carl and Geri Litchfield
16 Dan and Sharon Stout

OCTOBER

14 Kevin & Clydell Willis
21 Tom and Marcia Sutton

NOVEMBER

3 Emory and Wendy Sloan
7 George & Marcie DeGraeve
7 Mike & Irene Mitchell
18 Dennis & Bonnie Dominic

HARVEST DINNER

Greensky Hill's annual Harvest Dinner will be held Saturday, September 27, 2008 from 4:00 – 6:00 PM. Harvest Dinner is a time to come together – some describe it as a “homecoming” to appreciate God’s bountiful blessings and to help support Greensky Hill’s outreach. Ticket prices for the dinner are: \$9.00 for adults, children 10 and under \$4.00. Proceeds from the Dinner are distributed for college scholarships, various community service organizations and to individuals in need.

If you are willing to volunteer to work at the dinner and have not signed up as yet, please call Al Colby @ 231-838-9713. Please have all canned goods and non-perishable foods at Susan Hall on Sunday, September 21st. For a great dinner and helping to support Greensky Hill’s outreach, please come to the Harvest Dinner on Saturday, September 27th.

ANNUAL CHURCH CONFERENCE

Our Annual Church Conference is scheduled for Saturday, September 20th at 3:00 PM with the Parish Council Meeting @ 2:00 PM. This year we are meeting at Greensky Hill Indian Mission UMC. This meeting is the annual meeting of both churches in our parish. We will discuss how our previous year went, look forward to how we hope and pray our ministry this next year will go, vote on some financial matters, hear a short message from the District Superintendent, Robert Mayo, and celebrate our ministry together. We should be finished by 4:30 PM. Please put this date and time on your calendar.

MEMORIAL FUNDS

The Greensky Hill congregation wishes to acknowledge and thank JoAnn Elzinga and Lynn Groves for the gifts in memory of their husbands, Richard Elzinga Sr. and Maxwell “Scottie” Groves.

JoAnn purchased an electric piano keyboard from the Richard Elzinga Sr. Memorial Fund. Because of its relatively light weight, the keyboard can be carried to various locations without having to move a regular size piano (e.g. Tabernacle at camp meetings, church etc). Thank you, JoAnn.

Lynn has requested that the funds from the Maxwell “Scottie” Groves Memorial Fund be used to help defray costs for construction material and equipment to help build the sugar shack and to prepare and bottle maple syrup at Greensky Hill. Scottie liked the concept of collecting sap from the maple trees on Greensky Hill property and the preparation and bottling of Greensky Hill syrup. Thank you, Lynn.

GRAND TRAVERSE DISTRICT 2008 “MAIN EVENT”

The 2008 “Main Event” will be held Saturday, October 4, 2008 at the Central United Methodist (222 Cass Street, Traverse City) from 9:00 AM- 4:00 PM. This year’s Main Event is entitled “Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations” with Bishop Robert Schnase.

Bishop Robert Schnase is currently bishop of the Missouri Area of The United Methodist Church. While he was Senior Pastor of First UMC of McAllen, TX, (1989-2004), it was

recognized for congregational growth, bi-cultural ministry, young adult ministry and commitment to mission. Previously, while pastor of Wesley UMC in Harlingen, he received the Circuit Rider Award for Church Growth and the Denman Evangelism Award.

Bishop Schnase is the author of three books by Abingdon Press: *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations* (2007), *Ambition in Ministry: Our Spiritual Struggle with Success, Achievement, and Competition* (1993), and *Testing and Reclaiming Your Call to Ministry* (1991). He worked as editorial consultant for the *New Interpreters Bible*, and has contributed chapters to *Weaver and Stapleton's Reflections on Marriage and Spiritual Growth and Grand-parenting and the Spiritual Journey*.

The schedule for the day is as follows:

Saturday, October 4th, 2008

9-9:30 AM Registration at Traverse City Central UMC

9:30 AM Welcome

9:45 AM-12:00 PM Bishop Robert Schnase- Session 1

12:00-12:45 PM Lunch

12:45-4:00 PM Bishop Robert Schnase- Session 2

Registration: \$15 per person (includes lunch)

Forms: See Pastor Tim

Send form and registration fee by Sept. 19th to:

Grand Traverse District Office

1249 Three Mile Rd. Traverse City, MI. 49686

(Please make check payable to W. MI. Conf.)

Phone: (231) 947-5281

THE MIRACLE

A little girl went to her bedroom and pulled a glass jelly jar from its hiding place in the closet. She poured the change out on the floor and counted it carefully. Three times, even. The total had to be exactly perfect. No chance here for mistakes.

Carefully placing the coins back in the jar and twisting on the cap, she slipped out the back door and made her way 6 blocks to Rexall's Drug Store.

She waited patiently for the pharmacist to give her some attention, but he was too busy at this moment. Tess twisted her feet to make a scuffing noise. Nothing. She cleared her throat with the most disgusting sound she could muster. No good. Finally she took a quarter from her jar and banged it on the glass counter. That did it!

"And what do you want?" the pharmacist asked in an annoyed tone of voice. "I'm talking to my brother from Chicago whom I haven't seen in ages," he said without waiting for a reply to his question.

"Well, I want to talk to you about my brother," Tess answered back in the same annoyed tone. "He's really, really sick and I want to buy a miracle."

"I beg your pardon?" said the pharmacist.

"His name is Andrew and he has something bad growing inside his head and my Daddy says only a miracle can save him now. So how much does a miracle cost?"

"We don't sell miracles here, little girl. I'm sorry but I can't help you," the pharmacist said, softening a little.

"Listen, I have the money to pay for it. If it isn't enough, I will get the rest. Just tell me how much it costs."

The pharmacist's brother was a well-dressed man. He stooped down and asked the little girl, "What kind of miracle does your brother need?"

"I don't know," Tess replied with her eyes welling up. "I just know he's really sick and Mommy says he needs an operation. But my Daddy can't pay for it, so I want to use my money."

"How much do you have?" asked the man from Chicago.

"One dollar and eleven cents," Tess answered barely audibly. "And it's all the money I have, but I can get some more if I need to."

"Well, what a coincidence," smiled the man. "A dollar and eleven cents--- the exact price of a miracle for little brothers." He took her money in one hand and with the other hand he grasped her mitten and said "Take me to where you live. I want to see your brother and meet your parents. Lets see if I have the miracle you need."

That well dressed man was Dr. Carlton Armstrong, a surgeon, specializing in neuro-surgery. The operation was completed free of charge and it wasn't long until Andrew was home again and doing well. Mom and Dad were happily talking about the chain of events that had led them to this place.

"That surgery," her Mom whispered, was a real miracle. I wonder how much it would have cost?" Tess smiled. She knew exactly how much a miracle cost.. one dollar and eleven cents.... plus the faith of a little child.

In our lives, we never know how many miracles we will need. A miracle is not the suspension of natural law, but the operation of a higher law.

I know you'll keep the ball moving!

Here it goes. Throw it back to someone who means something to you!

A ball is a circle, no beginning no end.
It keeps us together like our Circle of Friends. But the treasure inside for you to see
Is the treasure of friendship you've granted to me.

Today
I pass the friendship ball to you.

Pass it on to someone who is a friend to you.

MY OATH TO YOU...

When you are sad.... I will dry your tears.

When you are scared.... I will comfort your fears.

When you are worried.... I will give you hope.

When you are confused.... I will help you cope.

And when you are lost.... And can't see the light,
I shall be your beacon.... Shining ever so bright.

This is my oath.... I
Pledge till the end.

Why you may ask?.... Because you're my friend.

Signed: GOD

Greensky Hill UMC Council Minutes
July 8, 2008

The July meeting opened with prayer. Attending were: Dennis and Bonnie Dominic, Carol and Richard Tunison, Daugherty and Judy Johnson, and Susan Bice.

The minutes of the June meeting were accepted as read.

The Treasurer's report was read and approved with corrections.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Tim was not in attendance.

Standing Committee Reports

Trustees have not met.

Men's club met; no business conducted, it was a social meeting.

Visitation Committee has not met.

UMW: Profits from the Saginaw UMW luncheon and the flea market will be donated to Marshall and Mary Collins.

Finance Committee has not met.

Worship Committee has not met.

Open Comments: Richard Tunison discussed a letter received from the state regarding "corporate identity"; he agreed to pursue this. We also discussed letter from Mr. Jakeway regarding our title; council discussed whether we would be willing to fund a survey if necessary.

Old Business

Camp Meeting: The need to replace or remove the dock on the lake was discussed. The dock will be removed.

Website: We are all very impressed with the new website; work to continue.

Petoskey Church Service: Had some new people come; will probably continue the service through the summer.

Keyboard: An electronic keyboard has been purchased with funds from the Richard Elzinga Memorial Fund.

New Business:

There was a motion made to sell the old electronic piano in the tabernacle to Nancy Richardson. Motion supported and carried.

Pow Wow: Judy Johnson is willing to attend the powwow, but we have nothing to sell to help cover the fees. Motion made to authorize Judy to spend up to \$500. to obtain merchandise for the powwow. Motion supported and carried. There being no further business, motion was made to adjourn at 8:45. Motion approved.

The next council meeting will be August 12 at 7PM.

Respectfully submitted, Susan Bice

WORDS OF WISDOM

Mirth is God's medicine.	Henry Ward Beecher
Our attitude is the crayons that color our world.	Allen Klein
Humor is tragedy plus time.	Carol Burnett
If you can laugh at it, you can live with it.	
Misery comes free. Joy, fun and laughter take planning.	C.W. Metcalf
Humor is chaos, remembered in tranquility.	James Thurber
Life itself cannot give you joy unless you really will it. Life just gives you time and space. It's up to you to fill it.	Chinese Proverb
Some days you're the bug, some days you're the windshield.	Mark Knopfler
Hope: tomorrow's veneer over today's disappointment.	Evan Esar
If you're gonna walk on thin ice, you may as well dance.	Jessie Winchester
I got to be a little bit crazy, cause it keeps me from going insane.	Country Song
Warning: humor may be hazardous to your illness.	
Don't deny the diagnosis. Try to defy the verdict.	Norman Cousins
We don't laugh because we're happy- we're happy because we laugh.	William James
One of the best things people can have up their sleeve is a funny bone.	R.L. Weaver
Peace starts with a smile.	Mother Teresa
Some pursue happiness- others create it.	
In spite of the cost of living it is still popular.	J.L. Peter
Humor is the prelude to faith, and laughter is the beginning of prayer.	Reinhold Niebuhr

CHILD'S STORY

Author and lecturer, Leo Buscaglia, once talked about a contest he was asked to judge. The purpose of the contest was to find the most caring child. The winner was:

A four-year-old child whose next door neighbor was an elderly gentleman who had recently lost his wife. Upon seeing the man cry, the little boy went into the old gentleman's yard, climbed onto his lap, and just sat there. When his mother asked him what he had said to the neighbor, the little boy said, "Nothing, I just helped him cry."

JUST FOR LAUGHS

While driving in Pennsylvania, a family caught up to an Amish carriage. The owner of the carriage obviously had a sense of humor, because attached to the back of the carriage was a hand printed sign..." Energy efficient vehicle... runs on oats and grass. Caution: Do not step in the exhaust!!!"