

Pastor's Ponderings

Our very dry spring has got me thinking about an image Jesus often uses for living fully in his presence: a river or stream. Jesus says that “streams of living water will flow from within” one who is living fully present with Him. In the beginning “a river watering the garden flowed in Eden” (Genesis 2:10) and at the culmination of the ages there is “the river of the water of life as clear as crystal...flowing down from the throne of God”(Revelations). Living fully with Jesus is living in the Spirit river that runs from the beginning of time to the end of time.

So what does it mean to grow into living fully in Jesus presence - in this Spirit river? To put it another way, what does it mean to be engaged in spiritual growth? I don't think most of us understand what Jesus offers. In a recent book *UnChristian*, authors David Kinniman and Gabe Lyons research concluded that most people don't know what spiritual growth is and even if they knew, they are not motivated to pursue it and even if they were, they've already got enough. It points to what John Ortberg calls a “grace gap” - our blindness to seeing the current state of our own lives compared to what we could be living fully in the presence of the Holy Spirit. There is this “grace gap” between the life God has for us with “living water” flowing from within us and our current life. We underestimate God's grace and what role it plays in our spiritual growth. Often people think they can close the “grace gap” if they will just be heroic in their spiritual efforts - pray harder, serve more, read another book, etc.

What if Jesus really meant what he said? That the Spirit of God is like a river flowing all of the time? What if your job as a follower of Jesus is not to try harder, get up earlier, or rev up your emotions? What if God is really in every moment, place, and time? What if spiritual growth is to learn simply to not do those things that close you off from the Spirit? What if rather than needing to do something more, it is about how you keep yourself aware and submitted so that rivers of living water are flowing through your being? John Ortberg says, “we are always either opening ourselves up - walking in the Spirit - or closing ourselves off from the Spirit”.

Here are some questions I invite you to ponder. How do you need to live differently so that you are opening yourself up to the Spirit more? How can you stay connected to the Spirit river that runs through your life and all life? How can you recognize those times when you close yourself off from the Spirit?

May you journey through this spring into summer growing in living fully in Jesus presence - so that streams of living water flow through your being!

Grace,

Pastor Tim

Invitation to the Gospel of John - a 4-week study of the Gospel of John.

Each Monday from April 26th through and including May 17th at 7:00pm in Susan Hall. This will be an in-depth study centering around Scripture reading, video teaching segments, and group discussion. All are welcome.

Membership Exploration Gathering

A membership exploration gathering will be held in May. If you are interested in becoming a new member, this is the time to explore what being a member of Greensky Hill Indian Mission United Methodist Church means. The exact date and time will be determined soon, based on those interested in attending. Please contact Pastor Tim (582-

9441) or wright.tim.b@gmail.com if you are interested in attending. After attending the class, if you want to join our church we will be receiving new members on an upcoming Sunday.

Mission Trip Opportunity

During the week of July 11-17 we have an opportunity to participate in a mission opportunity with the Grand Rapids Area Service Project.

The Grand Rapids Area Service Project (GRASP) began in 1989 as a conduit through which the skills of youth and adults could be used to help with deteriorating housing conditions in the poverty stricken areas of Greater Grand Rapids. Grand Rapids struggles with a growing underclass living in sub-standard housing, with few resources for sustained development. GRASP seeks to address living conditions among poor homeowners. GRASP exists to serve Christ in the city!

GRASP links the vitality of volunteers with the needs of low-income home owners. Projects are selected from referrals made by human service agencies and neighborhood associations. Work projects will be matched to the skills and experience of participating groups. Groups may apply to participate with GRASP for whatever length of time they desire, although a Monday through Friday work week is encouraged during the summer months. No experience is required.

If you are interested in pursuing this or would like to find out more, please contact me at (231) 582-9441 or wright.tim.b@gmail.com. If there is enough interest, I will be scheduling a time when we will gather to further discuss how we move forward.
Pastor Tim

GREENSKY HILL TIDINGS APRIL/ MAY 2010

PRAYER REQUESTS

David Wassenaar Family & Friends	Quintin Walker II Family	Ben Wabanimkee Family
Agee Family	George Chapman Family	Craft Family
Luke Calhoon	George & Marcie	Rose Greane
Russell & Karen	Phyllis John	Rose Hassube
Lilly Richardson	Margo & Kala	Lucy Funk
Glen & Linda	Bob Alexander	David Agnew
Caroline Kelly	Mildred Speigl	Tammy Speigl
Matthew Cross	Janice Smith	Eleanor Baker
Katie	Steve	Clydell
Kimberly	Jack Balahik	Elizabeth
Mary K.	Austin Gabby & Sonya	Irene
Little Nicole	Joan	Angie & Kaden
Linda DeGrow	Roxana Tramontini	Chase
Gilbert & DeLos	Lois Webb	Connie K.
Molly Tate	Lynn	Jim Goebel
Border Patrol	Steve R.	Ginny B.

The Military: Phillip Slocum, Joshua Gloria, Courtney Marulli, Frank Marulli, Nick Colby, Les Meyeette, Walter Houlden, and Matthew Johnston.

The people of Haiti and Chile; the homeless and oppressed people throughout the world.

APRIL

4-Alice Harvey
11-Richard Tunison
18-Jim Ledahl
25-Wendy Sloan

LITURGISTS

MAY

2-Albert Colby, Jr.
9-Clydell Willis
16-Allan Dhaseleer
23-Matt Koontz
30-Richard Tunison

APRIL

8-Nancy Acker
8-Rene Demanaeus
9-Mary Black
15-Mike McCreery
16-Quintin Walker
16-Sam Black
17-Tom Sutton
19-Nicole Swadling
21-Hunter Johnson
24-Bob Peterson
25-Kim Marchewitz
25-Joyce McClellan
27-Dale Willis
28-Paul Johnson

BIRTHDAYS

MAY

5-Byron Wright
12-Kevin Willis
12-Chris Dominic
15-Jacob Elzinga
15-Olivia Sprague
17-Madlyn Johnson
19-Madlyn Heise
20-Judy Johnson
20-Colleen Wright
21-Theresa MacDonald
23-Susanne Peterson
25-Katherine Slocum
28-Dwain Walker

ANNIVERSARIES

APRIL

19-Michael & Kim Marchewitz
30-Craig & Carol Adams

MAY

11-Daugherty & Judy Johnson
20-Mike & Lynette McCreery
21-Pastor Tim & Paula Wright

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE AT GREENSKY HILL (MAR./APRIL 2010)

The Holy Week schedule for Greensky Hill Church will be as follows:

Palm Sunday- March 28, 2010
9:00 AM- Worship
5:00 PM- Worship with Pastor Tim

Maundy Thursday- April 1, 2010
7:00 PM at Horton Bay UMC

Good Friday- April 2, 2010

The Good Friday Service is a Community service starting at 12:00 Noon. This year the Community service will be held at the Charlevoix UMC.

Easter Sunday- April 4, 2010

7:00 AM- Sunrise Service at Greensky Hill

8:00 AM- Breakfast/Potluck in Susan Hall (please bring a dish to share).

9:00 AM-Easter Service at Greensky Hill

5:00 PM –Easter Service with Sam McClellan

EASTER THOUGHT

I have always been fascinated with the gathering up of the fears and the hopes of mankind in the story of the two men walking along the road to Emmaus on Easter afternoon. They were going back to gather up the loose ends of the life that they had left to follow Jesus. He was gone now and the cause was apparently hopeless, so back they go to the status quo to take up where they had left off when Christ interrupted their lives.

They become aware of a stranger walking with them. They talk with him. Naturally their conversation makes reference to Jesus and the cross and their disappointment. The stranger asks about what has happened. Surprised at his ignorance, they tell him of Jesus and they say, "We had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel." Here you have gathered in one sentence all the despair that comes from the followers of Jesus who floundered now in depths of disappointment because of the apparent defeat and death of Jesus. But you cannot stop there. Read further and hear from the lips of the same men words of testimony that can well be ours on this Easter Day. They realized that it was Jesus risen from the dead, a living reality right there with them. Though now He had vanished from their sight, they recalled, "Did not our hearts burn within us as He talked to us on the road, while He opened to us the Scriptures?"

The road of the burning heart is the path that leads from despair to the triumph of hope. "And thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumph."

(from a sermon by Hoover Rupert)

I CALL UPON HIS NAME

Whenever I am burdened

I call upon His name.

I tell it all to Jesus.

Then the burden isn't the same.

He died for me at Calvary:

From sin He set me free.

Through Him there is salvation.

Oh, how much He loveth me.

I can't get along without Him
 His spirit shall always remain,
 So whenever I am burdened,
 I call upon His name.

Edna Massimilla

INDIAN WORKERS' CONFERENCE

This year's Indian Workers' Conference will be held in Northport on April 16th and 17th. Greensky Hill is part of a community of faith that includes all ten Native American Churches in Michigan. There are seven churches in the West Michigan Conference and three in the Detroit Conference. The Indian Workers' Conference distributes the funds from the Native American Ministries Sunday Offering, supports the Native American Course of Study and Lay Speaking Courses, and is a time of fellowship and support.

NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES SUNDAY

One Sunday in April is designated as Native American Ministries Sunday. The purpose of this day is to remind the Church of the gifts and contributions made by Native Americans to our society and to collect a special offering (most churches in our Conference do this). This offering is split between the National Native American Board and our Conference. The National part helps put on programs, offers scholarships and grants to Native American Churches around the nation. Our share is distributed by the Indian Workers' Conference. We help churches with special projects and support Native American programs in our conference.

18th ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

The 18th Annual Greensky Hill Church Benefit Golf Scramble will be held at the Dunmaglas Golf Course on Boyne City Rd., Charlevoix, Michigan on Sunday, May 23, 2010. The event will start at 12:00 Noon.

The cost is \$70.00 per person (4 person team only); no handicap scramble. ALL ENTRIES ARE SECURED BY ADVANCED RESERVATIONS ONLY, with a deadline to register by Friday, May 21, 2010. All U.S.G.A. rules apply.

There will be contest holes, prizes, and a dinner buffet immediately following the tournament at Susan Hall on the grounds of Greensky Hill Church, 08484 Greensky Hill Rd. (off Old US 31 North) Charlevoix, MI. 49720. Prizes will be given in 3 divisions- Men's, Ladies, and Mixed Play. For more information or to register your team, please call Lynette McCreery at (989)-854-1108 or e-mail Lynette McCreery@hotmail.com All proceeds support Greensky Hill Indian Mission UMC, Charlevoix, Michigan.

UMW CRAFT SALE- SATURDAY, MAY 29th, 2010

The United Methodist Women will be holding their 6th Annual Craft Sale in Susan Hall on Saturday, May 29, 2010 from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Last year's event was great fun and was well attended.

Articles for sale include woodworks, native jewelry, baked goods and lots more items of interest. Enjoy a portion of the Memorial Day weekend by attending the UMW Craft Show at Greensky Hill.

IMPORTANT TIDBITS

1. Mark your calendars- **SUMMER CAMP MEETING- August 6,7,8, 2010.**
 2. 18th Annual Greensky Hill Golf Tournament- Sunday, May 23, 2010. (See related article in this issue).
 3. UMW Craft Show- Saturday, May 29, 2010. (See related article in this issue).
 4. Anyone interested in the W. Michigan Conference United Methodist Camping programs for Summer 2010 can call the Camp Registrar's Office at 1-888-217-1905 ext.326 with any questions. Brochures should be available in Susan Hall. Camps are available for all ages; registration forms must be in by May 15,2010. Some scholarships are available based on financial need and first come basis.
 5. Charlevoix Food Pantry- donations for the pantry can be placed in the large basket inside the door of Susan Hall. Thank you for your donations.
- Women's Resource Center- please help with our donations to the resource Center; there is a tub for donations in Susan Hall.

MOTHER'S DAY TRIBUTE- FOREVER YOUNG

All mothers are beautiful when they are young- remember? Then as the years turn into decades, Mother meets another man besides Dad and this man is Old Father Time. Her fresh beauty changes after she and Old Father Time get to be good friends. There are little cut lines on her thumb made by the paring knife, and the winter winds roughen her cheeks when she hangs out clothes (even when she uses all those magic creams). She doesn't carry the grocery bags so jauntily as when you were skipping along by her side. And her eyes, once dancing, are tired because they have seen so many, many things. Then one day, Mother looks in the mirror and says to herself, "I am no longer pretty," and it is a sad and lonely day.

Mother is seldom wrong, but she was wrong that time. The beauty of mothers is as indestructible as Faith, Hope, and Love because mothers are all these things and more.

When the years roll on and the children scatter to faraway places of the earth, Mother's job is done. Her little ones have become young men and women, for better or for worse, and there is nothing left that she can possibly do. Now she can sit back and relax and take things easy in her gold autumn of her life. But does she? No! Now she has grandchildren to visit, to plan for, to buy for, to make for, to sew for, to knit for, and if she lives long enough she becomes a great-grandmother. Only then can she stop and rest and spend the remainder of her days just being as beautiful as only great-grandmothers can be.

But whether she is eighteen or eighty, Mother is an irreplaceable treasure. None other will ever love you half so well or half so foolishly. None other will be so sure you are right, good and worthy. Of course, sometimes she is wrong, but God love her for it and keep her forever in His grace.

Alan Beck

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY !!!!!!!

LIL' ANGELS TALKING ABOUT ANGELS

Did you ever wonder what children know about angels... here are a few insights?

I know the names of two angels. Hark and Harold. Gregory, age 5

Everybody's got it all wrong. Angels don't wear halos anymore. I forgot why, but scientists are working on it. Olive, age 9

Angels talk all the way while they're flying you up to heaven. The basic message is where you went wrong before you "gotz" dead. Daniel, age 9.

My guardian angel helps me with math, but he's not much good for science. Henry, age 8

Angels live in cloud houses made by God and his son, who's a very good carpenter. Jared, age 8

Why, when someone is in love, angels shoot arrows at them. Sarah, age 7.

What do you know about angels? Most know they are God's messengers- Genesis 18:10 or Luke 2: 9-20. But did you know they are cheerleaders- Psalm 91: 11 and Luke 15: 7,10. Or angels being our protectors- Psalm 91:11 and Matthew 4:6. These are just a few things that angels do on behalf of God for us.

Always remember to forget the troubles that pass your way; BUT NEVER forget the blessings that come each day.

The fullest work that God ever worked in any creature is compassion.

Medieval Christian mystic Meister Eckhart

Lost and Found: Someone left a gold-toned watch in the Susan Hall kitchen. It is in the office. Contact Richard or Sue if you think it may be yours.