

JULY/AUGUST 2010

Dominion Window

From Pastor Gene:

Spiritual Direction and the Seven Last Words of Christ (Continued)

As such the spiritual director can draw the directee's attention to these most profound utterances in such a way that the directee can better experience God in their lives, on day to day basis. As we explore Christ's seven last words I believe that Jesus, from the cross, answers both of these questions in a most profound matter by addressing seven aspects of life with God; forgiveness, assurance, family, the horror of not feeling God's presence, physical anguish, fulfillment/purpose and surrender. It is in the practical, day to day living out of Christ's direction, as given to us from the cross on that last day that we find the perfection of God's direction in our lives. Martin Scharlemann writes: "The crucifixion represents an intrusion into human affairs, an attempt to restore men and their existence to what God had in mind from the beginning of time."

Our consideration of Christ's seven last words within the context of spiritual direction is far from unprecedented. Christians have contemplated Christ's death and its implications with regard to their lives as followers of Christ for nearly two millennium. Tim Muldoon writes: "Meditation on the crucifixion and death of Jesus has been the center of Christian piety for centuries." Those who have allowed themselves to be directed by the Holy Spirit as they contemplate Christ on the cross, find themselves spiritually healed as those who have been freed from their fear of death. As we consider Christ's seven last words we sit before Christ crucified; we see Christ on the cross wounded and dying; we listen to Christ's Words; we pray with Christ, and we enter into the Christ's death. Though this most profound experience of God's presence we are directed to the Resurrection and life eternal. As we experience Christ's suffering we also know, with a renewed vigor, Christ's joy as the Savior of humanity, God incarnate, who came that all might live.

For some it may seem morbid to spend time at the feet of a dying Messiah. If this were true then Jesus would have said nothing from the cross. I believe that Jesus was pointing the way to eternal life up to the moment of his dying breath. Therefore

Continued next page . . .

It is vitally important that we listen with our ears, eyes and hearts wide open, because these are not words of death, but words of life. These are Words that immediately and profoundly effect and guide believers in the way of Jesus. Christ's words of direction from the cross are immediately life changing when they are understood and heeded. These are not words that stand only within an end of life context, but guide us as we seek more of the Lord in our life in the here and now. Henri Nouwen states within the context of eternal life; "The great mystery of the spiritual life—the life in God—is that we don't have to wait for it as something that will happen later." Thus, we listen to Christ's last Words, not as those of death, but as words of life.

Finally, from a spiritual direction perspective it is important to consider all that Christ said, from the cross, within the context of prayer. Spiritual direction is all about helping others develop a deeper relationship with God. Spiritual direction at its core is meant to develop our relationship with God until God becomes the intimate center of all that we think, say and do. Prayer is the primary manner in which we develop our relationship with God. Prayer opens up our lives to the realization of God's presence in the moment to moment of our lives. Therefore the prayer life of the directee and how prayer (or lack thereof) affects their everyday walk with God is spiritual director's primary concern. This being said I believe that one of the most powerful ways to practice the presence of God and to help others do the same is to pray the seven last words of our dying Savior to practice the presence of Jesus." By practicing Christ's presence we must therefore be open to Christ's guidance as well. The goal of this is to begin to grasp Christ's message from the cross, as that message guides and directs our lives as children of God who are ever seeking a closer and deeper relationship with the Lord each passing day.

I will discuss the spiritual direction aspect of each of the last seven words in their traditional order. For each of the seven words I have established a main message or thrust of the prayer. The seven prayers are:

- 1. Prayer of Forgiveness**
- 2. Prayer of Assurance**
- 3. Prayer for Family**
- 4. Prayer for When We Don't Feel God's Presence**
- 5. Prayer for Physical Anguish**
- 6. Prayer for the Fulfillment of Purpose**
- 7. Prayer of Surrender.**

We will then pursue three questions with regard to that message, as we seek Christ's spiritual direction. This will be continued in the next DW. *Pastor Gene*

THRIFT STORE SUMMER SCHEDULE

As many people are out of town over the summer or at least taking summer Vacations, the **Shepherds Closet Thrift Store** will be closing on Saturdays for the months of June, July and August. The store will be open **Monday through Friday from 10am—3pm.**

We wish to thank all of you who are so generous with your contributions and to the wonderful volunteers who give their time in sorting all the various clothes and items and of course those that work inside the shop.

Hope you will all have a wonderful summer. We've have had a great run since we opened and will continue to do so. It's an awesome way to reach out to our friends and neighbors.

God Bless you all, Sheryl Henderson, Manager

AUCTION IN THE FALL

After the success of last years Auction we will be having another on October 23rd. Viewing of items will take place from 3pm—5pm and the auction will be at 6:00pm.

We already have some fine items up for bids, but need more. Only good quality merchandise. Pastor Gene will be the Auctioneer and we are looking forward to making money to help our Thrift Store and Food Pantry.

If you would like to help organize this Auction please contact Sheryl Henderson at the Shepherd's Cosset Thrift Store.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES: have already started. Those wishing to be confirmed may attend these classes every Thursday evening at 6:30pm with Pastor Gene. They will take place through September 9th. Please call the church office if you know of anyone who may be interested.



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

JULY/AUGUST

United Methodist Women Events

As we are into the summer months so we don't have too much to report. Check the upcoming Sunday Bulletins in case there are changes in dates and times of various Circle meetings. There will be a General Meeting on July 14th in Hughlett Hall.

Have a wonderful Summer—Stay Cool!

The Executive Board will **not** meet in July, but will resume meeting on August 4th. However our General

Martha Circle: will not meet in July and August.

Rachel Circle: will not meet in July or August.

Lydia Circle: July 21, and August 18 will enjoy a lunch out.

Mary Deborah Circle: July 13th at 9:30am in the Church Parlor
August 10th, 9:30am in the Church Parlor

Ruth Book Group: July 28 meet in the Parlor at 9:30am. The book “The Last Song” by Nicholas Sparks will be discussed. There are numerous copies in the Brevard County Library System.

Circle of Concern

Home: Kay Bartberger, May Russell, David Rothermund, Christi Coy, Jim Bishop, Sr., Peggy Morgan Halper, Fay Mallard, Elsie Bailey, Lucille Taylor, Glover Robinson, Joanna Ramsey, Judy Barker, Robin Wagoner, Gloria Reed, Sharon Bauer, Gladys Williams, Bob Rothstein, Sara Fellows son, Leslie, Mary Heslop, Yvonne Koptka, Ed Barnett

Please inform the church office if you know of anyone in hospital or needs a visit.

Exciting Event

We are so excited and blessed to have the Lake Junaluska Singers perform here at our Church. They are a unique group of talented musicians, provide music for the various conferences and worship services of the summer season for the Southeastern Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church at Lake Junaluska. They are also world traveled.

The Lake Junaluska Singers



In Concert
First UMC
825 Forrest Avenue
Cocoa, FL

July 16, 2010
7:00PM



Dr. Melodie G. Galloway,
Director

BIRTHDAYS!



July

7/01 Elsie Vasilevich,
7/02 Howard Lewis, Charles Hammond
7/04 Barbara Mangum
7/05 Daniel Heckman
7/06 Jim Bishop, Jr.
7/07 Esther Hanson, Sharon Smith, Linda
Simmens,
7/08 Daltan Haile
7/10 Barbara Compson, Verda Rothstein,
Gene Oliver
7/12 David Bauer
7/14 Richard Harris
7/15 LaVonn Simpkins
7/16 Seth Drobniewski, Leah Drobniewski
7/18 Sue Oden
7/21 Douglas Sumerlin
7/22 John Gates, Crystal Strickland,
James Strickland.
7/23 Herman Byrd
7/23 Mozelle Green, Mikael Hardee
7/28 Hattie Barbour
7/20 Jenny Phair
7/31 Margaret Chumley, Donna Heckman

August

8/01 Mary Ramsey, Sheryl Henderson
8/02 Cheryl Bishop
Rachel Masse.
8/03 Beau Miller, Wanless Damron
8/04 Peggy McCann
8/07 Ruth Warden
8/09 Vivian Scott
8/11 Nancy Glass
8/12 Martha Keck
8/13 Bill Heslop, Dave McGaffic
8/15 Hilda Mayo
8/16 Beatrice Hankin
8/17 Fay Mallard, Kris Davis
8/18 Al McKinley
8/20 Judy Houston
8/21 Marcene Jackson
8/22 Elsie Bailey, Peggy Odom
8/23 Howard Russell
8/24 Al Ashley
8/25 Scott Gates
8/26 Charlie Bartberger
8/27 Jane Phelan, Todd Conrad
8/28 Lynn Wilcox

EVENTS/PROGRAMS 2010

The following list is of upcoming events and programs in our church through December. Any changes or additions will be in your Sunday bulletin or next DW.

July 4th	4th of July Holiday (Church office closed)
July 16th	7:00pm Concert "Lake Junaluska Singers" First UMC Sanctuary
July 31st	VBS B.B.Q on the grounds of the church. (TBD)
Sept. 11th	Girl Scouts Gathering all day.
Sept. 16th	7:00pm. Via de Cristo Send Off.
October 14th	7:00pm Via de Cristo Send Off.
October 23rd	6:00pm. Thrift Store Auction Hugh Hall

November 14th Celebration of our 125th Anniversary of FUMC Cocoa

November 26 th	Thanksgiving Community Dinner (TBD)
December 24 th	7:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 11:00pm Christmas Eve Service
December 31 st	11:00pm. Night Watch Service

*We are expecting other great happenings for the rest of the year and will let you know when dates are set.
Always check bulletins and DW's for any changes in schedules.*

**125th
ANNIVERSARY
OF
FUMC COCOA
1885-2010**



**November 14th
2010**

SPECIAL VIEWING

On Monday, **August 22, 2010 at 11:00am** in the chapel we will be viewing a video of Louie Giglio's
"Fruit Cake and Ice Cream".

This video is 40 minutes long and is AMAZING!!

Make sure you come. It's worth it!!

PRAYERS AND THOUGHTS FOR THOSE IN HARMS WAY.

We have a special request from Lee Brady whose Brother, Tommie Magazu in serving in Iraq. Lee thought it would be nice to give you his address and email and we could send him prayers and messages from his friends at home.

His address is: SFC Tommie Magazu
 1166 Transportation Company
 APO AE 09366
Email: magazutomm@aol.com

INFORMATION

The Chancel Choir are taking a break through the Summer. There will be no more rehearsals on a Wednesday evening until August 18th. They will still be singing on a Sunday.

Sunday Services: 8:00am Drive-In Worship
 9:00am Praise Service
 10:00am. Sunday School
 11:00am. Traditional Worship Service.
"Bring a Friend to Church"

First UMC Cocoa.



WE LOVE OUR CHURCH!

ON November 14th

**We will be celebrating our
125th Anniversary.**

It will be a Sunday to remember!

**Plans are being made now for
Entertainment, food, and music.**

If anyone has any thoughts and ideas

For this special day, please contact

The church office

636-4811



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