

EVEN IN THE NORTHWOODS,
OUR HEARTS ARE RESTLESS UNTIL THEY REST IN GOD

CHIT CHAT

March 2014

From Pastor Chips Paulson

HOW TO AVOID:

“DEATH BY WALLPAPER AND FLOORING”

— ...If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and be filled," and yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body, what use is that? Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself.... James 2:15-17

“Drops Like Stars”

Rob Bell, on his “Drops Like Stars” tour introduced me to the concept of “Death by Wallpaper and Flooring.” The following is an excerpt: “In the movie Old School, Will Ferrel plays a married, thirty-something-year-old suburban man who finds himself at a college party.

When he's offered a drink, he declines, saying, ‘I have a big day tomorrow.’

When he's asked, "Doing what?" he responds, "Well, um... actually, a pretty nice little Saturday. We're gonna go to Home Depot, buy some wallpaper, maybe get some flooring, stuff like that. Maybe Bed Bath and Beyond... I don't know. I don't know if we'll have enough time..."

Why is it that everyone I know who's seen that movie remembers that scene? Obviously people remember it because it's funny. But there's far more going on in the scene that just going to Home Depot on a Saturday.

This man in this movie is bored. He has the life that is often portrayed as the ideal - a wife, a house, a job, security, comfort, privilege, freedom - and yet it's left him bored, numb, and in a low-grade state of despair. His ‘success’ has actually served to distract him from just how deeply unsatisfied he is with his life.”

I assume none of us want to starve or be shot at or lose someone we love, but it's possible to die a sort of death at the other end of the spectrum as well, isn't it?

“If we aren't careful, our success and security and abundance can lead to a certain sort of boredom, a numbing predictability, a paralyzing indifference that comes from being too comfortable.” Bell then goes on to describe this as “Death by wallpaper and flooring.”

On the tour, however, Bell uses that opening as a springboard to describe part of the story of Scott Harrison, a highly successful ‘Events Promoter’ in New York City, who for years brought highly influential people together at gatherings. He knew everybody, who was anybody,

and he'd make sure that they all got together at the same place at the same time. He was sponsored by beverage companies who would pay him thousands of dollars a month just to be seen in public drinking a particular brand of beverage. He got so good at



projecting a certain kind of image, he says, that when he knew he was being photographed, he'd tilt his wrist at just the right angle so that the photograph would reveal, that, 'yes,' he was in fact, wearing a Rolex.

What happened for him, however, was that having 'everything' had somehow robbed him of having life, and he found himself bored, suffering from kind of a low-grade despair ... a sort of "death by wallpaper and flooring," says Bell. Scott then heard about an organization called, "Mercy Ships," an organization of people who gave themselves to some of the most

under-resourced places in the world to take care of certain basic needs that people aren't able to take care of themselves. He heard about a ship off the West Coast of Africa where a group of physicians were doing facial reconstruction surgery on kids with severely deformed faces. Some of the kids had growths that would literally extend down to their armpit area of their bodies. These doctors would do surgery so that these kids could smile again. And they were looking for a photographer who could document the 'before' and 'after,' and so Scott applied, and sort of talked his way onto the ship as a photographer, and then once they said, 'yes,' he taught himself to take pictures. And so he gets on the ship. "At first," he says, "being the Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's court felt strange. I traded my spacious midtown loft for a 150-square-foot cabin with bunk beds, roommates and cockroaches. Fancy restaurants were replaced by a mess hall feeding 400+ Army style. A prince in New York, now I was living in close community with 350 others. I felt like a pauper. But once off the ship, I realized how good I really had it. In new surroundings, I was utterly astonished at the poverty that came into focus through my camera lens. Often through tears, I documented life and human suffering I'd thought unimaginable. In West Africa, I was a prince again. A king, in fact. A man with a bed and clean running water and food in my stomach....I fell in love with Liberia - a country with no public electricity, running water or sewage - Spending time in a leper colony and many remote villages, I put a face to the world's 1.2 billion living in poverty. Those living on less than \$365 a year - money I used to blow on a bottle of Grey Goose vodka at a fancy club. Before tip."

In time, Scott discovers that about 80% of diseases in under-resourced, developing world areas are caused by the lack of clean drinking water. So, Scott came to the conclusion that he ought to give his life to this water issue. And so, he uses all of his power, influence, connections, creative genius, and resources and begins an organization that came to be called, 'Charity Water.' The results of the organization is phenomenal ... check out their website Charitywater.org.

What I'm getting at with all of this is an observation Bell made, and that is that there are two sides of kind of the death-suffering spectrum. There are people on the one side, who face death at any moment -- and when you don't have drinking water you're there --- Then there's the other side of the death spectrum whose lives are so free from suffering that you're almost numb; bored --- you have all the stuff you're supposed to have, and yet somehow you're still missing out. There is, says Bell, a mysterious phenomenon when someone on the one side of the spectrum, who is almost lacking a disruption or a struggle, or an obstacle in their life; there is a beautiful, redemptive, mysterious thing that happens, when someone on that side of the spectrum stumbles upon the suffering of someone on the other end of the spectrum., and realizes that if they don't do something about that suffering, they're going to be even more miserable.

Scott Harrison is not in our congregation, and none of us have the kind of position and influence he had at that pivotal time in his life when he traded his midtown condo for a bunk on a ship with cockroaches. Each of us, however, are Kings and Queens simply because we have beds and clean running water, and food in our stomachs, and, unless we become willing; indeed, actively engaged in assisting those on 'the other side of the spectrum,' we run the very real risk of "dying by wallpaper and flooring."

This month, one of our Active Elders and Session members – Janie Williams -- is stepping from one end of the spectrum to the other. Janie is bringing the focus of our congregation and our ministry to Guatemala ... one of

the poorest countries in the western hemisphere. Some fundamental problems in Guatemala exist on a massive scale; a scale not seen in the developing countries. Infant mortality is among the worst in the hemisphere; 67% of the indigenous children are malnourished, 75% of the population live below the poverty line, and 58% below the extreme poverty line. A third of Guatemalans live on less than \$2 a day, the average schooling of the indigenous population is under two years, and. 80% of the adult males, and 90% of the females are illiterate. Janie's work through Pura Vida Ministries is dedicated to long-term involvement in the education of children from the poorest rural Guatemalan communities, in the belief that this is the most effective way of helping the Guatemalan people help themselves. As a congregation ... indeed as our "body of Christ" here in Manitowish Waters ... we are being challenged to support these people, and now we have one of our own who has responded, and continues to respond very actively and very personally as she 'puts a face' on those suffering in Guatemala. Janie will probably tell you, that she in fact "gets" more than she gives in her mission journeys to Central America. This year, through our extended Church family ... the Jacobucci arm of our "body" (i.e. Jonel and Dominic Jacobucci) the ministry to Guatemala is beginning to grow. It is my hope, prayer, and desire that our congregation would become increasingly, and more directly involved in supporting this ministry (with, perhaps, some of our own immediate congregation joining Janie next year). This year, I would simply challenge each of you to pray and find way support Janie, Jonel and Dominic in what is now part of "our" ministry to Guatemala through her and the Jacobuccis.

Yours in Christ,

Chips

(P.S. ... Check out Matthew 25:31-46 for additional and ultimately fundamental rationale for such an outreach).

March

2 (Sun.) Holy Communion

- 9:30 am – Full Worship Service
3 (Mon.) 2:00 pm – Adult Bible Study
4:00 pm – Hand Bell Choir
4 (Tues.) 10:30 am – Grief Support Group

- 5 (Wed.) 8:00 am – Men's Bible Study**
10:30 am – Our Home K Care Service
3:45 pm – Elementary Youth Group
5:30 – 6:30 pm – Soup Supper
7:00 pm – **Ash Wednesday Communion Service**
6 (Thurs.) 9:30 am - Guild
3:00 pm – Hand Bell Choir
7 (Fri.) 2:00 pm – **World Day of Prayer Service**

9 (Sun.)

) 9:30 am - Worship Service

Daylight Savings Time – turn clocks ahead 1 hour

- 10 (Mon.) 2:00 pm – Adult Bible Study
4:00 pm – Hand Bell Choir
12 (Wed.) 8:00 am – Men's Bible Study**
NO –Elementary Youth Group
13 (Thurs.) 3:00 pm – Hand Bell Choir

16 (Sun.) 9:30 am - Worship Service

- 17 (Mon.) **St Patrick's Day**
2:00 pm – Adult Bible Study
4:00 pm – Hand Bell Choir
18 (Tues.) 10:30 am – Grief Support Group
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19 (Wed.) 8:00 am – Men's Bible Study**
NO – Session Meeting
3:45 pm – Elementary Youth Group
20 (Thurs.) *First Day of Spring*
9:30 am - Guild Study
3:00 pm – Hand Bell Choir

23 (Sun.) 9:30 am - Worship Service

- 24 (Mon.) 4:00 pm – Hand Bell Choir
26 (Wed.) 8:00 am – Men's Bible Study**
3:45 pm – Elementary Youth Group
27 (Thurs.) 3:00 pm – Hand Bell Choir

** - meets at Little Bohemia

Pastor Chips and Suzanne do not have a home phone (landline) anymore. So if you need to call Chips...you need to call his cell phone – 715-776-2998

Duties

Ushers

- March 2 Chuz and Kath Wilson
March 9 Chuz and Kath Wilson
March 16 Mark & Marla Suckow
March 23 Mark & Marla Suckow
March 30 Jim & Emily Bokern

Liturgist: Hope Dougherty

Lay Leader:

- March 2 Margo Perkins
March 9 Deane Galloway
March 16, 23 & 30 Jim Bokern

Communion Person: DuWayne Schumacher

Counters

- March 2 Mid Sharpe and David Foster
March 5 Bob Schmidt and DuWayne Schumacher
March 9 Bob Schmidt and Deane Galloway
March 16 Mid Sharpe and Carol Bohlin
March 23 Bob Schmidt and Joan Dioszegi
March 30 Glen Wildenberg and Vince Hoehn

Give us faith to continue the journey before us with courage, not exactly knowing where we are going, but trusting that your Spirit is leading us on and your love is supporting us. *Rev. Ben Bishop*

**Session Members please note:
Session will not be meeting in March or April**

SESSION MEMBERS 2014

- Clerk Carol Bohlin-715-356-4060
Janie Williams
Sharon Bridges-715-686-2489
Sarah Becklund-715-686-2907
Tom Erickson-715-543-8046
David Foster-715-385-2217
Deane Galloway-715-543-8010
Ron King-715-583-9979
Dave Lukas-715-686-7697
Mark Schuelke-715-686-7223
DuWayne Schumacher-715-686-2074
Helyn Woolf-715-686-7173

Session meets the third Wednesday of the month.

DEACONS

Cathy Breinholtz, Mark Buckow, Dale Erdam,
Ruth Stober, Hope Dougherty, Jan Schumacher,
Manny Markham

*Feel free to contact a Session or
Deacon member with any concerns or questions.*

Madams & Sirs

Madams & Sirs will not meet
in March because it falls on
Ash Wednesday.

Program for April:

Zack Wilson will be telling us about
his research on LOONS.

FLEAZAAR 2014 is July 16!

We hope you are collecting items to donate for this wonderful annual event. Many individuals are already thinking about and planning for Fleazaar. Helyn and Jay Woolf are handling publicity and Glen Wildenberg (920) 323-2728 is compiling a list of volunteers willing to pick up donations.

In 2013 about \$1,500 was spent to dispose of unsold or unsalable items. We hope to be more selective with accepted donations this year to keep this expense down. For a list of non-acceptable items, please check with the list on the Church website: www.mwcpc.org. Because we are trying to be more selective with the acceptable donations and are trying to presort items as they are donated, a new security system will be used. The locks will be changed on the Barns and a realtor lockbox will be used. Those needing access can get the combination from the Blochs (715) 345-9410 or (262) 498-2923.

Plans are to open the Barns for donations
April 12th from 9:00-12:00.

Respectfully submitted, *Dan and Nan Bloch*

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

I invite **EVERYONE** to come to church on
Wednesday, March 5th.

This is **ASH WEDNESDAY**,

We have a special worship service that begins at
7:00 pm.

This day is the start of the LENTEN SEASON, one of the most important seasons in the life of the church, which leads us to Resurrection Sunday, aka EASTER.

This is a time for reflection on the truly important things. It is a time to renew and refresh our focus on JESUS CHRIST, who He is, and what He has done for us.

Our Annual **SOUP SUPPER** will be serving from 5:30 – 6:30 pm. This is a humble meal of home-made soup and bread. We will also have beverages and dessert. There is no charge for the meal, but donations will be accepted to offset the cost. Please come and enjoy the meal before the service.

Bring your whole family and feel free
to invite friends and neighbors.

In His service and yours,

Joan Dioszegi

715-892-4390

cedirector@mwcpc.org

**P.S. THERE WILL NOT BE
YOUTH GROUP ON MARCH 12TH
BECAUSE OF SPRING BREAK.**

Stuffed Sweet Pepper Soup

1 pound ground beef
2 quarts water
1 quart tomato juice
3 medium sweet red, yellow,
or green peppers, diced
1 ½ cups chili sauce (1 bottle)
1 cup uncooked long grain rice
2 celery ribs, diced
1 large onion, diced
2 teaspoon browning sauce, optional
3 chicken bouillon cubes
2 garlic cloves, minced
½ teaspoon salt

In large kettle or Dutch oven over medium heat, cook beef until no longer pink; drain. Add the remaining ingredients; bring to a boil. Reduce heat, simmer, uncovered for 1 hour or until the rice is tender. Yield: 16 servings. (4 quarts)

Missions

It is interesting to write this in the middle of the night because I finished it and then hit something that totally erased it off the board so here I go again! If someone asked you to give a definition of Mission, what would you say? Would you say it is something that occurs overseas? When I looked up the definition of Mission, the meaning I liked was 'following Christ's call'. But that doesn't have to be far away. We follow Christ's call by our prayers, actions, and commitment to our local community. The Mission Committee has approved giving \$200 to each of our local food pantries this year. That is following Christ's call. We have also approved \$500 to Pura Vida in Guatemala. That too is following Christ's call. As a committee of this church we take our responsibility very seriously and prayerfully consider all decisions. And we ask you to follow Christ's call with your prayers, support, and suggestions.

If any of you are interested in being a part of this committee, please let Helyn Woolf or me know. We welcome new people with fresh ideas.

Sarah Becklund
Member, Mission committee

Hola amigos de Cristo!

Our Guatemala Mission Trip is just around the corner – March 21st – 30th, and I am very excited to have Jonel and Dominic Jacobucci joining me this year! Together, along with the Pura Vida team from St. Luke's UMC in Highlands Ranch, CO, we will build two homes, a kitchen for the former Cornstalk School (our 2012 construction project), hold a bible camp for the village children, and complete various side projects for completed schools, the local orphanage, and our friends Sister Helen and Sister Connie.

Mochas gracias to our Manitowish Waters Community Presbyterian Church, the Westminster Guild (for the "beautiful pillow case dresses"!) and individual members of the congregation for their continued support in these much needed and greatly appreciated Guatemalan projects.

If you are interested in supporting this mission work, signing up for a mission trip, or gathering more information please contact Janie Williams, williamsperu5@gmail.com.

Que Dios les bendiga,
Committee Member
Janie Williams

If you would like to contribute to the 2014 Guatemala Mission projects, you may use the pew envelopes and write 'Guatemala' on the envelope before placing it in the offering. Thank you for your support!

P.S. I will be collecting gently used crayons and cement trowels through Sunday, March 16th. The crayons will be used during our Bible Camp, and the cement trowels for our construction projects. Thank you!

Deacons

The Board of Deacons continues our work to fulfill our mission as the “caring arm” of the church, to be the helping liaison between church members, the Pastor, and the community.

We appreciate your help, and ask that you please let any Deacon know if you are aware of someone who could use some support.

Members of the Board of Deacons are:

Dale Ekdahl, Mark Suckow, Cathy Breitholtz, Ruth Stober, Manny Markham, Janis Schumacher and myself.

the board of deacons will be meeting every third Sunday in the choir room

*Did you know?

*There is a Letter Lab in the Fellowship Hall with cards and a list of people to send cards? Or, send one to someone you feel could use a hug?

*There is an informational hutch next to it with various information on organizations.

*In the narthex, by the fireside room, there is a collection of “Care Notes”, booklets designed to help you through various journeys in your life.

Prayer Chain

Also, if you have changed your email or phone number or if you wish to become a part of our prayer chain, please email me at hoped@centurytel.net, or call me at 715-543-2669 and I will make sure you are added.

Respectfully submitted,
Hope Dougherty

Thank You!

A special thanks for all of you that helped with the **snow shoveling** this past winter. Everyone, without exception, showed up for “their week” and got things cleaned up in a timely fashion. It really made a huge difference in keeping the front entrance snow and ice free.

The following individuals made it all happen...*Dick Smith, Bill Kauffman, Bob Schmidt, Eric Koster, Joan Dioszegi, Bob Bridges, David Drake, Melinda Pearce, Parker Sharpe, Mark & Marla Suckow, Tom & Jon Erickson and DuWayne Schumacher.*

Give them a big thank you the next time you see them! This was such a big success that I am sure we will do it again next year. Please consider giving us a hand when the sign-up comes available next fall.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Schuelke
Building & Grounds

1st George Fix, **3rd** Jack Jacobs, Nancy Bilder, Cody Meier, Jay Williams, **4th** Sue Patterson, Jeff Krans, Kerry Kost, **8th** Chuck DeCarlo, **10th** Jean Rein, Nathaniel McFarland, **11th** Judy Strauser, **12th** Sharon Bridges, **13th** John Wilson, David Frandy, Mikayla Cayo, **15th** Leslie Sullivan, **16th** Bill Perkins, Freda Masar, Sean Gardner, **18th** Bob Nickerson, Cathy Breitholtz, **21st** Grayson Johnson, **22nd** Mary Monroe, Kelsey Backlund, **23rd** Sheila Klagos, **24th** Matthew Nelson, **26th** Carole Berglin, Susan Rueger, **29th** Bill Kauffman, **30th** Chuck Behnk

24th Jack & Lynn Majewski
28th Ken & Audrey Winchell

March Special

Events:

- March 5th
5:30 – 6:30 pm

Soup Supper

- March 5th
7:00 pm
Ash

Wednesday Communion Service

- March 7th
2:00 pm

World Day of Prayer

Westminster Guild

Westminster Guild met on February 6, continuing our study of the presence of God in Exodus and Deuteronomy with Father Bill Radant. Our key idea for the day's two lessons was how God provided faithfully for the people's physical, emotional, and spiritual needs in the wilderness and how God still provides for the church and the world through the combined efforts of all disciples.

Following our Bible study, we worked on preparations for **World Day of Prayer**, which is **Friday, March 7, 2014**. This is an ecumenical event, hosted this year by our church, with several north woods churches participating. It promises to be a wonderful service, entitled Streams in the Desert, and we hope you will plan to attend – Friday, March 7, at **2:00 pm**. Coffee and cookies will be served following the service, which will be a great opportunity to meet and get to know people attending from our surrounding churches. Please mark your calendars to join us for World Day of Prayer.

After the meeting we all enjoyed a delicious dessert served by Helyn Woolf.

Our next Guild meeting will be Thursday, March 6, and we would love to have you join us then also! We will continue our Bible study with "Becoming a Holy People."

Until next time,

Respectfully submitted,
Kay Suffron, Moderator

Recipe: **Chicken Enchilada Dip**
(really good and easy appetizer)

2 large cans chicken, drained
1 small can green chilies (chopped), drained
½ chopped jalapeno (optional)
1 cup mayonnaise
a splat of sour cream or half and half

Heat all in a small crock pot or over low heat on stove.
Serve warm with Club, Ritz, or other crackers.

Bible Trivia

...check your Bible
knowledge

LENT BEGINS

Back from the Dead

1. What prominent leader of Israel was summoned up from the dead by a witch?
2. Eutychus, who died after falling out of a window during a sermon, was raised from the dead by whom?
3. What man of Bethany was raised from his tomb by Jesus?
4. A man came to life again when his body came into contact with the buried bones of what prophet?
5. What was the name of the town where Jesus raised a widow?
6. Who did Elisha raise from the dead?
7. Whose daughter did Jesus bring back to life?

Manitowish Waters Community
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Office Hours:
Monday Thru Friday = 9:00 a.m. till noon
715 543-2998

manwtrschurch@centurytel.net

Website – www.mwcpc.org

Rev. Chips – 715 476-7854/776-2998

Answers: 1. Samuel (1 Samuel 28:7-20), 2. Paul (Acts 20:9-10), 3. Lazarus (John 11:1-44), 4. Elisha (2 Kings 13:20-21), 5. Nain (Luke 7:11-15), 6. The son of the Shunammite woman (2 Kings 4:32-35), 7. Jairus' (Luke 8:41-42, 49-55).

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March 2014

