



Greensboro Gleanings

August 2010

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK ...

Dear Friends,

A few weeks ago I noticed the obituary for John Wooden who died at the age of 99. John Wooden was a legendary college basketball coach. When he coached UCLA, he won more national championships than any coach in history. Coach Wooden had an expression his players heard many times: 'You've got to be quick in this game, but you can't hurry.' That is a saying that is worth remembering and pondering. There are many times when our outer responsibilities....at our jobs, with our children....require us to move quickly and efficiently. We all know well that there are frequent life-circumstances that call for us to eat quick meals in a short time frame. It is possible, no doubt, to do that in a healthy way. The problem, however, is that our culture promotes the fast and the quick ubiquitously. In American culture there is little corresponding encouragement toward slowing down, being still, savoring quiet. Our culture gives us many messages that say, 'You've got to be quick;' but it gives us precious few that say, 'Don't hurry.'

This is one of the reasons the development of our spirituality is so important. It is one reason why some form of 'stillness practice' is so crucial in the spiritual life. Engaging in a stillness practice is a form of necessary nourishment for the human soul. Both the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures contain the words, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by [hearing and receiving] every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.' There is a broad consensus among spiritual seekers across the centuries, and within many traditions, that silence and stillness are a core element of such hearing and receiving. When we choose to be still--first physically, then mentally—and for extended periods of time, we cultivate a quality of being that is not strained. Making a regular practice of physical and mental stillness allows us to be taught—and to teach ourselves—a mode of being in which we choose to be relaxed and un-tense, unhurried and alert. One of the things I have learned through trial and error over the years is that when I need to get a lot done, the best way to accomplish that is to slow down. That is counterintuitive, especially in this fast-paced culture. But it is profoundly true. And it is true not just spiritually, but also in the world of tangible, measurable practicality.

As our sometimes almost-frantic Greensboro summer is now in full swing, I encourage you to be mindful of how you spend your time, and ask yourself whether you are getting enough time for still and quiet. If you don't have a regular stillness practice, there is never any better time than the now to start one. Or if your still and quiet times have become sporadic, what better time than now to reengage it.

May we all have a quiet and fruitful month of August, and remainder of our summer season in this beautiful place.

Your Pastor,

Tony Acheson

On Riches ...

"(Jesus) said ... Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions."

Luke 13:15
NRSV



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Milestones & Miscellany

Happy August Birthday to:

Rev. Anthony Acheson, Peter and Martin Gilmartin, Bruce Richardson, Cassandra Brush, Bethany Brush, Clive Gray, Mary Beth Whitten, Phil Gray, Willa Farrell, Janney Johnston, Mary Merrill, Paula Ratchford, Rhonda Myers, Beth Lovett, Ryan Cyr, Joel Behrsing, Rev. Leslie Simonson ...

... and Happy Anniversary to Bruce & Joan Richardson; Dan & Cassandra Brush; Emily Steelehurst Thompson & Nathaniel Thompson; and Thomas & Merrill Hurst!

Is your birthday listed this month when it shouldn't be? Have we missed you in our celebrations? Contact the church office and let us know if your birthday is listed incorrectly or has been missed. You can call 802-533-2223 or email gucc@gucvvt.org.



CHURCH DIRECTORY

The Church Office and the Board of Deacons have been collaborating to create an updated church directory. We have passed it around the congregation two weeks ago, and have revised a few times since then. We will be passing another draft around after services on August 1, and will leave a draft in the church office, in the Narthex, and in Fellowship Hall for a few days after that. If you have not already done so, please stop by and check your name and contact information to ensure that it is correct. We very much appreciate your input! Look for the updated directory in your in boxes soon!

Cassandra Brush

RECENT DOINGS ON OUR PROPERTY AND BUILDING

Our Board of Trustees has been hard at work keeping on top of maintaining our buildings and their long term needs. One major project that the Trustees have addressed on our behalf is dealing with the peeling of the paint on our main building. Thanks are due to Andy Dales for overseeing this project, and to Brian Gilmartin for doing much of the leg-work of meeting with various contractors to assess bids, etc.

The Trustees carefully considered the pros and cons of either painting or siding. The decision was taken to put siding on the Fellowship Hall portion of the building, and that project has been completed. [For historic and aesthetic reasons it was also decided not to place siding on the original structure housing the sanctuary itself. That original portion of our facility will continue to receive coats of paint when the time becomes right to do that again.] The Trustees are also evaluating the problems with the ramp

on the north side of our building and will be making an assessment in coming months as to the best course of action in that area.

Great thanks also continue to be due to Cilla Bonney-Smith for the magnificent gift she provides to the church with respect to our flowers....both in our Sunday morning displays at worship; and also in the labors that she, and Mike Coffey as well, put into maintaining the beautiful gardens we have in the front of our church.

Finally, thanks to an anonymous donor for making possible the purchase of a sign-board with changeable letters, that has now been ordered and will be placed in front of the church near the road. The sign should make its debut in early August.

Tony Acheson

AUGUST 2010

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 3PM Quincy Lee Perry Memorial Service	2	3 9 AM Study Group 8 PM Summer Music	4 8 PM Summer Lecture Series	5	6	7 4 PM Burial of Anne Lukens Saunders. L-Noyes Cemetery
8 11:15 Assoc Members Annl. Meeting	9	10 9 AM Study Group 7 PM, Church Council. 8 PM Summer Music	11 8 PM Summer Lecture Series	12	13	14
15 11:15 GUCC Annl. Meeting	16	17 8 PM Summer Music	18 8 PM Summer Lecture Series	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28 3:30 PM Mem Service for Jean Smith
29	30	31	<i>Thank you August Coffee Hour Hosts!</i> August 8—Lib Bishop & Trudy Osterhout August 22— Anne Parke & Helen Twiss		August 1—The Babbie Family August 15—Linda & Bill Nicely August 29—Cathy Pollard	

NEWS FROM
THE GREENSBORO UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Upcoming Lectionary Readings:

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Aug 1 ~Hosea 11:1-11~Psalm 107:1-43 or Ecclesiastes
1:2-23~Psalm 49:1-12~Collossians 3:1-
11~Luke 12:13-21

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Aug 8 ~Isaiah 1:1-20~Psalm 50:1-23 or Genesis 15:1-
6~Psalm 33:12-22~Hebrews 11:1-16~Luke
12:32-40

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Aug 15 ~Isaiah 5:1-7~Psalm 80:1-19 or Jeremiah
23:23-29~Psalm 82~Hebrews 11:29-
12:2~Luke 12:49-56

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Aug 22 ~Jeremiah 1:4-10~Psalm 71:1-6 or Isaiah 58:9-
14~Psalm 103:108~Hebrews 12:18-29~Luke
13:10-17

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Aug 29 ~Jeremiah 2:4-13~Psalm 81:1-16 ~~Psalm
112~Hebrews 13:1-16~Luke 14:1-14



Please Note: the parking lot between the church and the parsonage is designed for two lines of cars facing in the North-South direction, allowing for space for drivers to loop around the lot. Please be aware if you are among the first to park in the lot that it helps to pull forward enough so that two lines of cars can park, and there will still be room to drive around. Thank you!

The Church Staff

DO:



DON'T:

