

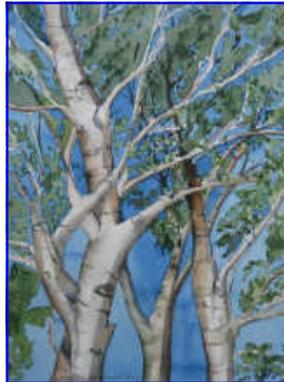
The Lyons Community Church

Mid-Week Message

Thursday, October 30, 2014

Dear friends and neighbors,

Everyone should have received a letter from me either last Sunday or in the mail this week - it included a gorgeous piece of original artwork from our own Deborah Salmon (thanks, Debi!). Every year, I try to send you a brief update of some of the many things going on at "the little white church" to keep you connected, just like the aspen trees in Debi's grove.



But staying connected is no easy feat. The world is pulling us all in a million different directions. The latest research shows that even satisfied church-goers only attend church once every 6 to 8 weeks. There is simply so much going on in our lives, so many activities and responsibilities and desires - it's simply impossible to do it all, all the time.



So we pick and choose, sometimes or feeling guilty about what we chose, or wondering if we missed out on something good. And we teach our teenagers and kids and adult parents to live like this, too: frazzled, over-scheduled, praising busy-ness as Lord, feeling important since we have so much to do.

I've lived a huge portion of my life like this:

when what I've really wanted and needed is a lot more of this:



I don't think I'm that different from you. I want my life to count, I want my decisions to matter, I want my choices to make a difference. But sometimes, I still get side-tracked and overwhelmed. I spend money on things I don't need, and forget to write a check to the church until the last day of the month. I race around doing stuff, rather than making that call to a friend in need, or stopping by to visit someone who has been on my mind. I don't email or text or call, even though I pray for and think about someone often. Why, or better yet - why not?



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Sunday, Nov. 2

Sermon: I Love to Tell the Story #3:
*Putting Our Money Where Our
Mouths Are* - Pastor Emily Flemming

Scripture: Act 4:32-37

Reader: Deb Tabor

Flowers: The Tabor Family

Greeter: Janet Freeman

Refreshments: Janet Freeman and
Sandra Willis

Children's Time: Mark Browning
and Regis Schoedel



Savannah at the Bowling & Pizza Party last Sunday afternoon.

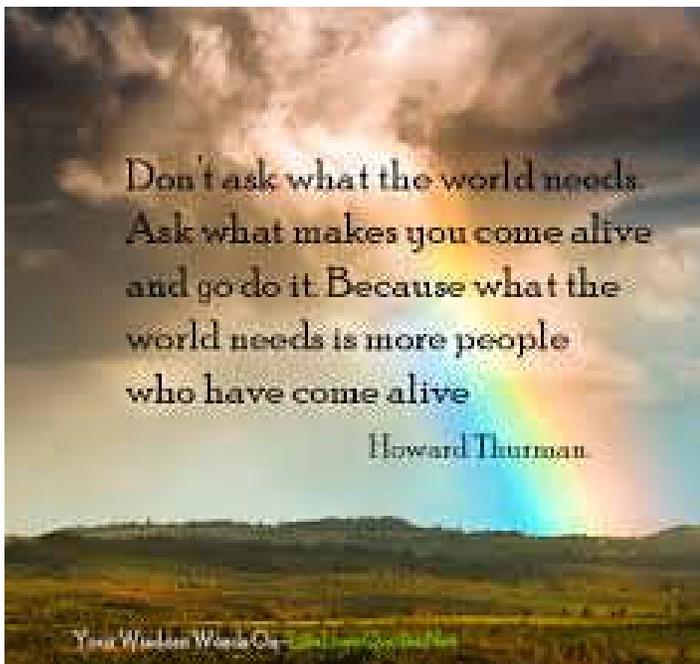
Pastor's Message (continued)

We are all stewards of our time and talents - of our service (what does our datebook say about our priorities?), our witness (thanks to Pam for reminding us in her talk last Sunday that starting small is the most authentic way to live a life witnessing to the mercy and grace of God's love!), of our finances (if our heart is where our money is, what does that say about us?), our presence (Mary is sometimes called the Patron Saint of Showing Up), and our prayers (or lack thereof). This week, Steve B. has agreed to share about giving financially to the church.

I challenge you to read through my letter and to think back to the annual evaluations many of you recently completed (thanks for your feedback, by the way!). Think about how much this church gives and does in response to God's amazing love - and how you might plug in to the work God is doing in our community within and all around the church. Are you being called to clear up some time, energy, money or talents and join us?

Rounding up the living,

Pastor Emily



Prayers...

Concerns to Karen, Jeanne and the Schwenn family in the passing of Jeff Schwenn, Steve M., Bob S., Jerry P., Vance F., Geneva T., Matt F., Sims family, Mark Heiss, Stevie LaRue's injuries (from falling off a ladder), our teens looking for their "places" in life, Ebola crisis, hectic and stressful time of year - elections, politics, many important decisions.

Rejoice with Jay Malito on his 40th birthday, and the Children's Bell Choir who did a stunning rendition of "Jesus Loves Me" last Sunday (hope to hear them again soon!)



Announcements

Thanks to Holly, Tanya, Carol and all the kids and teens who went bowling and to play laser tag after church last Sunday. We were 12 in all and had a blast!

Many thanks to the **LEAF Board** and local volunteers for a wonderful Bridges Out of Poverty training on Saturday morning (Nov. 1st). We are learning about inter-generational poverty and how to break the cycle. Our next Board meeting: Thurs, Nov. 6th.

A **Nominating Committee** is being formed to help identify church leadership for the coming year. If you are interested, please see Emily. For those currently in leadership, please prayerfully consider whether you'd like to continue, change roles, or take a break in the coming year.