

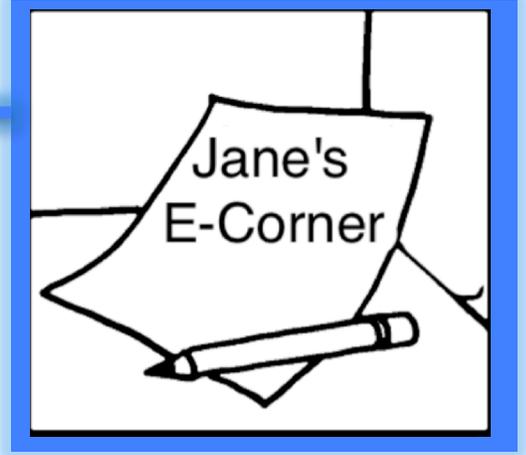
# e-Votion

For Wednesday November 6, 2013

Dear Friends,

Today I am reading 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5,13-17

*As to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we beg you, brothers and sisters, not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as though from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord is already here. Let no one deceive you in any way; for that day will not come unless the rebellion comes first and the lawless one is revealed, the one destined for destruction. He opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, declaring himself to be God. Do you not remember that I told you these things when I was still with you? But we must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the first fruits for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and through belief in the truth. For this purpose he called you through our proclamation of the good news, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by word of mouth or by our letter. Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and through grace gave us eternal comfort and good hope, comfort your hearts and strengthen them in every good work and word.*



I have unpacked and placed all of Andy and Katie's books from childhood on a bookcase in Avery and Ellie's room at my house. They love nothing better than for me to read to them. Last night we read *The Berenstain Bears and the Bad Dream*. As a result, I began reflecting, trying to remember some of the nightmares I have had. The book talked about how we carry the thoughts of our days into our dreams at night and they get all mixed up, sometimes seeming so real but making no sense.

Maybe we carry our memories, our unresolved guilt, our sorrow, maybe even our fear of the future into our dreams. And we try to figure out ways, creative ways, inexpensive ways to comfort our hearts that just cannot forget our hurts, or some page from our past that lives in our present, or the unknown of the scary future that is always before us. Then we entertain the poltergeists that rise to haunt us, rob us of sleep, and prevent peace of mind.

The answers are not found in distracting ourselves during the day. The answers are not found in trying to live with the restless feelings we have. The answers are found in the One who can forgive and forget. The answers are found in the One who promises to return to those who await him and give what they have waited a lifetime to hear.

This passage from 2 Thessalonians was written to a people who were waiting on Jesus to come back. Some of them thought the end time had already begun. Many of them quit their jobs, fell into despair, and lived with constant fear.

Paul wanted to remind them to live lives that were prepared for Jesus' return--not with fear and damnation but hope. Paul is reminding them that Jesus forgives sin, has power, has authority, sits at

the right hand of God and promises to return for the cleansing of those who believe in him. That's Jesus! I praise God that Jesus forgives us and erases the board, shreds the evidence, destroys the hard drive, and deletes the screen. For that I praise God every day that I live.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Calvin Garland is doing well, wearing a heart monitor and going back to the doctor Thursday. Calvin and Kathleen are very thankful for the love and caring expressed to them Sunday.

Chip Smith is hospitalized and needs prayer. (requested by Chuck Short)

Teachers, soldiers, those who have lost loved ones.

CALENDAR and ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Nov 7 at 8 am FINANCE COMMITTEE

Nov 10 5:30 Children (and youth) will have mission day and pack Operation Christmas Child Boxes

Nov 10-12 Women in Ministry Retreat at Buffalo Mountain. (I will be attending)

Nov 12 at 7 pm Church Council. All are welcome to attend this open meeting.

Please remember your gifts and tithes promised to the church. We are still running a budget deficit and need to build up reserves to get us through emergency times after the first of the year. Thank you for your gifts to First UMC.

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"Preach the gospel at all times and when necessary use words." St Francis of Assisi

Blessings,  
Jane Taylor  
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