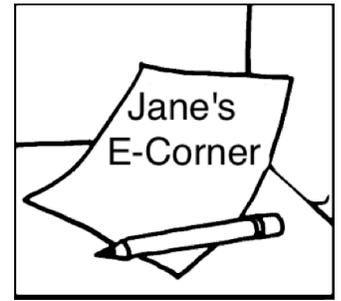


## Weekly Wednesday Devotion 7-24-13

I am reading this week in Luke 10:38-42:



*He was praying in a certain place; and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him: "Lord, teach us to pray as John taught his disciples." He said to them, "When you pray, say: Father, Hallowed be your name. Your Kingdom Come, Give us each day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us. And do not bring us to the time of trial."*

*And he said to them, "supposed one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, "Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him. And he answers from within, 'Do not bother me, the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed. I cannot get up and give you anything. I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence, he will get and give him whatever he needs.*

*So I say to you: Ask, and it will be given you; search and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? Or if the child asks for an egg; will give a scorpion? If you the, who are evil know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?*

How do we learn to pray? When I was a little girl, my family prayed. I received my first Bible when I was 5 years old--I still have it. My grandmother read her Bible and read Daily Guideposts faithfully and they were always out on the table where we could see them when we visited. We went to church morning, noon and night. I learned about God and about prayer as much through example as specific words. I learned God was good, I could trust God, and that God was with me on a daily basis, no matter where I was. I learned to praise God, to thank God, to ask for forgiveness, and to ask God for what I needed, and sometimes for what I wanted--especially if I said, "not my will, but your will be done." And then as I grew older and wanted to go deeper in my faith, I learned about meditation and contemplative prayer. I read the saints like, Teresa of Avila who likens our spiritual journey to rooms in a castle, and Julian of Norwich who says, " All will be well, All will be well, All manner of things will be well." Lately, I have read people like Thomas Merton who says prayer is the communion of our freedom with God's ultimate freedom, and Anne LaMott (maybe my favorite) who says she has two prayers, "Thank you, thank you, thank you" and "help me

help me help me." Anne Lamott does sum it up for me... Thank you God and Help me God might be all we need to say.

The disciples observed Jesus in prayer often and they wanted to know how to pray too. So Jesus gave the disciples (and us) a way to address God, to praise God, and to petition God. This wonderful Lord's prayer reminds us that God has power over us all and is always near to us. We don't always have the right words to say but God hears our prayers even when we don't say them and helps us in our weakness.

Maybe you can teach someone to pray. :)

### **Please pray for:**

- Allie and Andrew Bowling and baby Ava Grace
- Janice Buchanan had a stroke (requested by Linda Ellenburg)
- Brenda Hale had a heart attack (requested by Linda Ellenburg)
- Margaret and Gary Miller, Linda Ellenburg's brother and his wife, Margaret has cancer
- Kay and Gary Hubbard (requested by Linda Ellenburg)
- Our group in the Czech Republic this week: Jeff and Serena Crowder, Scott Huff, along with others from the Johnson City District
- We have unspoken prayer requests. God knows the need.

### **Announcements and Calendar Items:**

Do you know someone who would like to receive this but doesn't have e-mail? We added the E-votion to the website along with a way to print from the website. Perhaps you could send this to someone in the church you know who doesn't have e-mail as your ministry. Maybe you know someone who has e-mail but might not be on our e-list--let them know that I am happy to add anyone who wishes to receive this to the e-list!

- Friday July 26 - Family Fun Night 7:30 pm
- Saturday July 27 - Food Distribution 10am- 12.
- Saturday July 27 - Abolishing Poverty Conference
- Tuesday July 30 - Family Night at Cardinal Park - Hotdogs provided, bring a covered dish or dessert.
- Thursday August 1 - Spiritual Development Pillar 7 pm
- Sunday August 4 - PROMOTION Sunday in Sunday School

"Preach the gospel at all times and when necessary use words." St Francis of Assisi  
Blessings, Jane Taylor, First United Methodist Church, Johnson City, TN