



e - Votion

e-Votion for Wednesday, March 18, 2015

Dear Friends,

Today I am reading John 12:20-33:

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir we wish to see Jesus." Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor. Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say--'Father save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name," Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself."

Jesus said, "Very truly I tell you, unless a single grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit."

I love the organic nature of Jesus' words! We don't have to be farmers to understand this. Each of us, every day, is planting seeds. As parents, teachers, advertisers, ministers, writers--you name it, we plant seeds. As a church, and as individuals in our church, we are planting seeds. As I talk to my friends who are pastors, I know that Holston conference is crying out for capable leadership. We are blessed that we have at least 2 young people (and we don't know how many more) who are being shaped through our ministry here for future pastoral leadership. What a blessing! What a gift--a gift that doesn't happen automatically, but has happened by the seeds that you all have planted here at First United Methodist Church.



We plant seeds all the time. We never know which ones will produce fruit, but without planting, we are certain there will not be fruit. Planted seeds are also buried seeds. Jesus talks about a grain of wheat falling INTO the earth and drying. The seed goes to waste unless it goes into the ground and dies. We become the gardeners who tend the seed, make sure it has

the necessary moisture and nutrients. Mostly, we wait.

We spend a lot of time waiting, it seems. For nine months, parents wait for an embryo to grow into a person; for the next year or so, they wait for their child to speak and walk; then they wait for the child to master the skills necessary to begin formal education that might last through graduate school; adolescence is DEFINITELY a time of waiting--or maybe "waiting out" their teenager, and then they wait for total independence.

While we wait, we tend to our seed as well. In time, the planted seed that became the buried seed becomes the fruitful seed. The child becomes an adult; the visionary idea becomes a full-fledged ministry; the trainee becomes trained; and so it goes.

The seed, the earth, the gardeners, the fruit, all belong to God. :)

PRAISES AND PRAYER CONCERNS:

- Please pray for Betty and Aldon Speer's niece, Ashley, who is hospitalized in Franklin TN
- Garland Thayer, who is recovering at home
- Jane Eddy
- Shirley Palmer
- the family of Bill Ballew (resident of Johnson City and father of one of my childhood friends, Lynn.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Easter is soon going to be here! Below is the outline of our Holy Week Services:
- Palm Sunday at 4:30 Children's Choir followed by Easter Egg Hunt and Hot Dog Supper.
- Holy Wednesday April 1 (no Wednesday night dinner). We will have a service at 6:30 featuring music by our Branch Musicians.
- Maundy Thursday, April 2. We will have our regular Wednesday night meal followed by a service in the sanctuary at 6:30
- Good Friday, 6 pm, we will join with Wesley Memorial UMC for a Good Friday service at WESLEY.
- Easter Sunday: 8 am Breakfast followed by Sunday school and our two regular services at 10:30 and 11:30.

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

Blessings,

Jane Taylor
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