

GCC MESSENGER

This is the message we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him there is no darkness at all. 1 John 1:5

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MEDITATING ON THE MELODY

Note: Jay Ferris lives in the mountains of North Carolina. Jay is a dear friend and true brother in Christ. A former candidate for Congress from the State of Connecticut, Jay is the author of several books, notably writing on the subject of finance from a kingdom perspective. Jay has been battling cancer for more than a year now, and recently wrote to me concerning his current place on the journey. The following was my response to Jay, and as I considered what I'd written to him, I felt that I should share it with you.

Dear Jay,

Reading your email this morning caused deep resonance within me. I experienced a moment not unlike that verbalized by the disciples whom Jesus met on the Emmaus Road: "Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road."

I understand the difficulty of knowing, of being aware of our frailty and our impermanence in this dimension. There are times when we want to share these things with our loved ones, but we typically do not because others likely would not know what to do with the information we might share. Yet the crystal clear awareness of what's happening within us is actually exciting! It's a bit like going to see an optometrist for the first time and discovering, with the help of artificial lenses what you've been missing all along. A whole new world opens up as eyesight is strengthened. In like manner, recognizing our true proportions - the "dust" component that makes up our physical beings helps us to distinguish our true spiritual, and therefore eternal proportions. In the past couple of years, I think I've come to terms with the impact of James' question and answer, "What is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away."

Knowing these things does not make you or me any different from the next, healthy person. The Word speaks to the healthy and the sick alike, to young and to old, "You do not know what will happen tomorrow." Too often, we make the mistake of the fool and ignorantly confess, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry." "But God said to him . . ."

As the dawn broke on this new morning, I heard a chicken crowing. This is not a new or a rare thing for me. I hear that same rooster every morning. He lives on property about 300 yards from our home. Most mornings during the past several years, I've tuned out the

sound of the morning rooster, but in the past year, I've stopped whatever I was doing on more than a few days just to consider the sound of that faithful bird who seems to be telling the neighborhood, "Hey, where is everybody? I'm up and moving. What are you doing?"

In a few minutes, precisely at 8:00 AM we will be treated to the sound of a pipe organ, playing just a few measures of some old hymn. Sheila and I have lived here for eight years, and for eight years, nearly without exception, we've heard that organ at 8 AM, every day of the week. The beauty of this eight o'clock recital is that nobody in our neighborhood knows where the music comes from. Nobody knows who owns the organ. It's one of those local mysteries of the neighborhood. The last year has caused me to stop, listen, try to identify the hymn, and always, to attempt to locate the direction from which the sound is coming. The latter never succeeds. I'm as ignorant of the source today as I was eight years ago when I first heard the lovely, lilting notes settling over our patch of Kitsap County. When I hear the lovely morning notes I am reminded of Jesus' words to Nicodemus, "The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes."

Yesterday, the sun made a brief appearance at our home. In order to take advantage of the moment, I feigned interest in the growing things in our front yard and slowly strolled from plant to tree, soaking in the warming rays while pretending to check on the health and progress of the things Sheila has placed in the soil there. One of her favorites is called a 'butterfly bush'. She tells me the thing is so named because it attracts butterflies, but as I looked at the flowering shrub, instead of a lovely butterfly, I saw a big, fat bumblebee visiting one purple bloom and then another. As I wandered through the yard, I suddenly and strangely felt the emotion and the wonder of my own childhood return, just for a brief moment. Or was that awareness actually the emotion and wonder of my own eternity? And then I was conscious once again of the aches and the pains and the widening gap between my youth and my present, but I was strangely aware, all the same of a future without end and of a body without pain.

I can remember when the word 'life' meant to me adventure, excitement - movement! Now, going, doing, seeing, experiencing has been largely replaced now with staying, considering, recognizing, and if anything, the element of 'wonder' is greater now than it has ever been. 'Wonder' in receiving yet another day to live, to know a heavenly Father, to cherish the wife of my youth, and to be thankful for the ability to drink in, from the goblet of the ear, the eye, the touch of air on skin, the sweet wine created by the love of God poured out all around me.

I am praying that you will have many days - many more days than perhaps you expect to be given - to enjoy family and friends, especially the little ones and to allow the filter of your spirit to shape the truth the Father has poured into your heart so that others may be blessed and encouraged and uplifted.

Thank you for bringing the mysteries of God's truth to me this morning. You've given me something wonderful to meditate on, now that that old rooster has stopped his crowing, and I've stopped mine.

Greg

FELLOWSHIP FRIDAY

Ted Mata

The SS Fellowship stayed in port tied up to the pier on Friday night, but a strange thing happened. We were invaded by aliens known as Smurfs. They came in peace, only looking for tamales and tacos. Once the Smurfs removed their blue tinted helmets, the aliens turned out to be Walt and Lulu. By this time everyone was laughing so hard that we didn't care who they were. If you ever want to start a party off on a good note, the Diedrich twosome are for hire!!

Needless to say this event set the tempo for the rest of the evening. -- What a kick! Kathy showed up in her Western Hat (it was Hat night). Diane was in her 'Let's go shopping attire'. It was a fun evening. Lulu ate a whole bag of popcorn, Dennis attacked the goodies table, I ate my fill and didn't eat breakfast the next morning!

These Fellowship gatherings really bring out the weird ducks – I mean parishioners.

Our next cruise is scheduled for September 9 will be back to school night and the dress code will be what you wore when you were in high school. The scheduled departure time is 7:00 p.m. in the GCC library.

Remember these trips are better than anything on TV and it is LIVE from Gardiner Community Church. Come prepared to have some fun sprinkled with laughter.

BE THERE OR BE SQUARE!



Lulu & Walt in their 'hats'

BOXING DAY AUGUST 2011

Mary Ellen Brown

A bit of history first. The very first 'Boxing Day' was in January 2008 when ten members of the Women of Faith gathered to pack boxes for Air Force TACP's in Afghanistan, and at that time packed nineteen boxes. The shipping charges for those boxes was \$107.50.

On August 29 this year many more people from GCC gathered and packed 45 boxes from a wide array of items to chose from. The generosity of our church family and the neighborhood toward this mission is greatly appreciated. The shipping charges this year is \$582.75, all from donations from this family, friends and neighbors. Thank you all!

This shipment is the largest that has been



sent since the inception of this mission. Furthermore, we have many items left over for our next shipment, both contents and shipping funds!

I personally want to express my thanks and appreciation to Diane & Dennis Martin who are such wonderful coordinators for this ongoing mission.

They not only organize each boxing day perfectly, but they also have room to store all of the leftovers and do a lot of lugging, hauling and carrying boxes and boxes of items to and from the library on each and every boxing day – and still smile about it all.

Thank all who helped with the boxing, all who contributed contents for the boxes and all who contributed money toward the shipping charges. This mission would never be such a success without all of you.

MAY GOD CONTINUE TO BLESS THIS MISSION AND ALL OF OUR TROOPS!



More pictures from Boxing Day, August 2011.



ELDER'S REPORT

Mardy Pearson
Elder & Secretary

We are happy to report that \$2,746 has been donated by this congregation to help the hungry folk in Kenya.

After Communion Sunday on August 7 when pastor invited all to partake of the bread representing His body, there was a crackling response as the church family complied. It was decided to once again look for a softer, gluten free communion wafer. Those used in the past were tasty, but a bit unnerving in their 'crispy' response. We elders ate those remaining crackers with our coffee as the meeting progressed – through the crunch.

Questions have arisen about our policy on church weddings. After discussion and some reports of the difficulties with handling weddings of people we don't know, it was decided to continue with our present policy. Only members, family of members and also those who regularly attend our church may have weddings in our lovely church.

It is at our monthly meetings that we discuss the needs and concerns of the church and just how to handle them. If you have any questions, please speak to one of the Elders listed in the Sunday bulletin know.

It's good to see you all in church!

THE LORD'S RETURN

John Swearngin

What should we say about the day of our Lord's return, obviously we should be filled with anticipation. But truly we should be filled with anticipation every day as He can be in our lives now, – if we want Him to be – even this minute!

GCC FRIDAY PRAYER CIRCLE

A group of women have been meeting each Friday morning at 10:00 a.m. to pray together and enjoy the Christian Fellowship. This Prayer Circle evolved after Paige Eaves moved from the area and left that prayer space in our church family.

Mardy stepped forward to help fill that void and our new prayer group started with three women back in July 2008 and has developed into a tightly knit group of women, sometimes numbering as many as ten! We often have an unorganized assortment of 'snack' items on the table, sometimes it seems more like an early lunch.

Mardy always arrives first to turn on the heat in the library and get the coffee started and hot water available for our beverages. If the tables need rearranging, she has been known to do that before any help arrives.

Each gathering is begun with a prayer by Mardy followed by a reading from *'My Utmost For His Highest'* by Oswald Chambers. Her copy of the popular devotional book has been well loved and is one of the earliest editions published.

Each of the women have prayer requests and often many praises, which are shared. Mardy begins by telling us of her list, why prayer is needed and the specific problem. After she finishes her list we all bow our heads with her as she prays for her requests.

Then each woman present repeats this procedure with prayer requests that they have brought to us. After each woman has prayed and we are ready to depart, we all stand, join hands in our circle and Mardy leads us in-a closing prayer.

All Ladies are welcome and there are no rules or dues – Just join us for prayerful fellowship on Fridays.

GCC ANNUAL AUGUST PICNIC

Kathy & Ron Henderson, Hosts

Its picnic time once again for Gardiner Community Church. For many years this annual event was held at Helen Dent's place. This year we volunteered to hold this year's at our home and huge garage. Thanks to the men who helped set up the buffet area the day before.

Sunday, August 14th, brought a prompt dismissal from another great feast from the Lord and His word. Attendees to the picnic formed a 'wagon train' to the Henderson Mustang Corral in Sequim. As the train arrived, the host directed people to their respective tie-ups of their horseless carriages. A fresh array of picnic dishes sprang forth on the food tables as the ladies proceeded to set up the chow line for this year's 30 picnic attendees (not bad for a first time Corral picnic). The Mustangs were displayed with their information boards and books telling of

look of the end results of their get up and go. The group browsed around the Mustangs, took pictures, and laughter and conversation came forth.



We all sat in the big barn that even housed one air-born and one dysfunctional Mustang. Baskets and trophies filled one wall while wall coverings and banners tried to hide the fact that you were really in a 'vehicle garage'. A special table displayed an array of additional trophies won by the Mustangs from various car shows through the years, beginning in 1998.

Pastor Greg gave thanks for the food and gathering, and Kathy made the loud call of "Come and Get It!"

While we gobbled down our chow, we listened to 50's and 60's music that we could all identify. After eating our grub, fellowship and laughter ensued again. There's nothin' better than a great church family that shows their love for our Lord and Savior, Christ Jesus.

The weather started dismal in the morning, but got better and better. We got to see our answered prayer as the blue sky and sunshine sprang forth during the picnic. Areas were set up for smaller group getaways but due to the weather, we felt more comfortable and cozy under one roof. The food was great. A big personal thank-you for your help with set up and cleanup. The hosts enjoyed the results of all the pre-picnic family efforts that lent itself to the best picnic they'd been to in quite awhile. Many of you expressed the good time you had. Thanks everybody! Yahoo, see you all next year.



FROM OSWALD CHAMBERS' MEDITATIONS

From *Biblical Psychology* - 1962

BIRTHPLACE OF WORDS

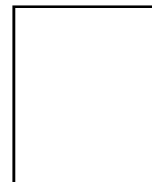
Matthew 12:34

The heart is the first thing to live in physical birth and in spiritual birth. It is a wonderful thing that God can cleanse and purify the thinking of our hearts. That is why our Lord says, "Out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks" (Luke 6:45). The Bible says that words are born in the heart, not in the head. "Will they not teach you and tell you, and utter words from their heart?" (Job 8:10).

"Jesus Christ said He always spoke as His Father wished Him to. Did His Father write out the words and tell him to learn them by heart? No, the mainspring of the heart of Jesus Christ was the mainspring of the heart of expression of God's thought. In our Lord the tongue was in its right place; He never spoke from His head, but always from His heart. 'If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue This one's religion is useless' (*James 1:26*), there is nothing in it. The tongue and the brain are under our control, not God's."

GCC MESSENGER

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LO, I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS

Mathew 28:20