

# Good Day, Horton Bay

Horton Bay United Methodist Church

[www.hortonbayumc.org](http://www.hortonbayumc.org)

April & May 2010

**Sharing the love of God so that all may continually grow as followers of Jesus Christ.**

## **Pastor's Ponderings**

Our very dry spring has got me thinking about an image Jesus often uses for living fully in his presence: a river or stream. Jesus says that “streams of living water will flow from within” one who is living fully present with Him. In the beginning “a river watering the garden flowed in Eden” (Genesis 2:10) and at the culmination of the ages there is “the river of the water of life as clear as crystal. . .flowing down from the throne of God”(Revelations). Living fully with Jesus is living in the Spirit river that runs from the beginning of time to the end of time.

So what does it mean to grow into living fully in Jesus presence-in this Spirit river? To put it another way, what does it mean to be engaged in spiritual growth? I don't think most of us understand what Jesus offers. In a recent book *UnChristian*, authors David Kinniman and Gabe Lyons research concluded that most people don't know what spiritual growth is and even if they knew, they are not motivated to pursue it and even if they were, they've already got enough. It points to what John Ortberg calls a “grace gap” –our blindness to seeing the current state of our own lives compared to what we could be living fully in the presence of the Holy Spirit. There is this “grace gap” between the life God has for us with “living water” flowing from within us and our current life. We underestimate God's grace and what role it plays in our spiritual growth. Often people think they can close the “grace gap” if they will just be heroic in their spiritual efforts-pray harder, serve more, read another book, etc.

What if Jesus really meant what he said? That the Spirit of God is like a river flowing all of the time? What if your job as a follower of Jesus is not to try harder, get up earlier, or rev up your emotions? What if God is really in every moment, place, and time? What if spiritual growth is to learn simply to not do those things that close you off from the Spirit? What if rather than needing to do something more, it is about how you keep yourself aware and submitted so that rivers of living water are flowing through your being? John Ortberg says, “We are always either opening ourselves up-walking in the Spirit-or closing ourselves off from the Spirit”.

Here are some questions I invite you to ponder. How do you need to live differently so that you are opening yourself up to the Spirit more? How can you stay connected to the Spirit river that runs through your life and all life? How can you recognize those times when you close yourself off from the Spirit?

May you journey through this spring into summer growing in living fully in Jesus presence-so that streams of living water flow through your being!

Grace,

Pastor Tim

### **Weekly Schedule**

Sunday Worship at 10:30 am

Children's Church during Worship

Adult Study: Sun. at 9:15 am & Wed. at 7:00 pm

## Mission Trip Opportunity

**During the week of July 11-17 we have an opportunity to participate in a mission opportunity with the Grand Rapids Area Service Project.**

The Grand Rapids Area Service Project (GRASP) began in 1989 as a conduit through which the skills of youth and adults could be used to help with deteriorating housing conditions in the poverty stricken areas of Greater Grand Rapids. Grand Rapids struggles with a growing underclass living in sub-standard housing, with few resources for sustained development. GRASP seeks to address living conditions among poor homeowners. GRASP exists to serve Christ in the city!

GRASP links the vitality of volunteers with the needs of low-income home owners. Projects are selected from referrals made by human service agencies and neighborhood associations. Work projects will be matched to the skills and experience of participating groups. Groups may apply to participate with GRASP for whatever length of time they desire, although a Monday through Friday work week is encouraged during the summer months. No experience is required.

If you are interested in pursuing this or would like to find out more, please contact me at (231) 582-9441 or [wright.tim.b@gmail.com](mailto:wright.tim.b@gmail.com). If there is enough interest, I will be scheduling a time when we will gather to further discuss how we move forward.

Pastor Tim

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### “Heart of the Matter” Seminar

**Where: Boyne City First Presbyterian Church in the Community Room**

**Bring a friend; tell a neighbor. No charge!**

**When: April 17, 2010 from 9am to 12pm**

**What:** Learn how you can make informed choices concerning home health care, wills and trusts, legal information and about MI Communities for a Lifetime Program. Six community professionals will participate in a question and answer panel and BCFPC pastor, Jonathan Mays, will briefly address emotional and spiritual issues. This educational seminar has something for everyone and is sponsored by Boyne City First Presbyterian Church. Please call BCFPC at (231) 582-7983 to register.

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#### April Birthdays



Rob Bergquist 4/1  
Ed Chamberlain 4/4  
Cindy Johnecheck 4/6  
Bonnie Pomeroy 4/6  
Ruth Chamberlain 4/9  
Linda Cadarette 4/22  
Greg Nortley 4/26  
Sophie Bergquist 4/28  
Clayton Smith 4/28  
Doris J. Robinson 4/30

#### May Birthdays

Pat Hayden 5/2  
Michelle Bergquist 5/5  
Sandy Johnecheck 5/13  
Thorneita Koteskey 5/18  
Jeannie Stetz 5/26

#### ♥ May Anniversaries

Tim & Paula Wright 5/21  
Dave & Kathy Cadarette 5/22

#### ♥ April Anniversaries

Kent & Jan Ruback 4/10  
Harold & Sandy Johnecheck 4/18

**Want to buy, sell, donate, invite, question, caution, or (fill in the blank)? This is the place and it's absolutely FREE! Call Jan at 582-7929 with your info.**

June Anthony has a Cadence treadmill to donate free for hauling it away. It is in working condition. Call 582-5631.

Jan Ruback has several antique pieces her husband wants out of his pole building. Examples include a small buffett, wooden cradle, commode, school desk, etc.

## **Rain at Winter's End**

**Ruth Haley Barton**

*“Look, a little cloud no bigger than a person's hand  
is rising out of the sea!”*

~I Kings 18:44

I love the way the rain comes at winter's end  
to hose down the sooty earth,  
and wash away the dirt that comes from who-knows-where.

Oh God,

I need a cleansing rain in my life,  
dirty as I am with the grit and grime of these dark years.

My heart is hard and crusty  
like patches of old snow in the yard,  
my life littered with trash I don't recognize  
and dead, brown grass where it used to be so green.

Today I would settle for a little cloud  
no bigger than a person's hand  
far off in the distance  
rising out of the sea of this disillusionment.

Today, if I saw such a cloud  
I would run like Elijah—loins girded,  
strengthened by the hand of the Lord  
in hopes that I could be there when the deluge came.

Warm rain

Softening the hardness of my heart  
Washing away the pain  
Enlivening this dead earth.

Today, if I saw even a hint of such a cloud,  
I would lay myself down upon the earth  
and bow by heart low  
Waiting for the miracle that would signal the changing of the season  
the end of this drought  
the coming of spring  
in the winter of my heart.

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