



First United Methodist

Become a part of God's family at First UMC

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*Vision: Hamilton First: a growing extended family sharing Christ's love
in the heart of the city (A United Methodist Congregation)*

Mission: To Know Christ and Make Him Known in the World

July 28, 2010

Dear Friends,

It is early in the morning and I am sitting outside in the cool. Yes, it is actually cool this morning. As I enjoy the morning, I am listening to all the sounds. There are birds chirping, cicadas providing a backdrop, and the occasional sounds of people from cars, motors or hammers. It is a delightful morning to sit and think about God.

The gospel lesson this week is about the rich man who had too many crops to put in his barn, so he built bigger ones. How satisfied he felt because he had achieved much in life. While there is nothing wrong with achieving in life, that is as long as you do it ethically, he forgot one thing. All he achieved was really God's achievement, too. Did this rich man make the seeds grow or the rain to fall? God had a hand in his success and the rich man forgot it. The rich man forgot God.

Jesus' point is: where do we put our treasures? Jesus obviously wants us to treasure the things that are related to God. As I sit here in the cool morning, it is easy to treasure God. I can easily look at the sky and think how grateful I am for this day. If I had to get up and get out to get to a meeting, would I feel the same? Where would there be the space for God?

It is so easy for us when the world is not relaxed and the weather cool enough to sit outside to forget or not treasure God. It is easy, in the midst of pain to forget God. It is easy when life has the same routine to forget God. It is easy, in the rushing from one place to another to forget God. It doesn't matter if we are busy, bored, or stuck in a routine. It is easy to forget God. Why? Because we all, at some level, think about our own needs to the exclusion of realizing how much God has done for us.

What do we need to think about God each and every day? Is it a place where we can sit quietly for a few moments? Is it outside where we see God's world? Is it in a dark room where we are not distracted by the things around us? Wherever it is, take a few minutes there to think about God and say thank you for all that we have received.

Maybe you say, "I wish I could go outside, then I could think about God; but I am stuck inside." God gave us this wonderful thing called an imagination. Take a moment and think about places you have been. Imagine yourself there, talking and walking with God. Using our imagination to share time with God is actually a form of prayer.

How you get to where you think about God is not as important as taking time to think about God. Take time to wonder each day over something that God has created. Take time each day to think about how much God loves you (To the moon and back X

70,000,....) Take time each day to let God's spirit lift you from your day to God's holy space. When you do, your day will go more easily, your spirits will be brighter, and the people around you will notice a difference.

I hope you will take some time with God today and each day to remember where your treasures are. Have a good walk with God this week.

Grace and Peace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Peggy".

Peggy L. T. Garrison