



THE CONNECTION

Orlean United Methodist Church



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I lie down and sleep; I wake again, for the LORD sustains me. Psalms 3:5

Message from Guest Writer:

Faith

Heading into a major surgery where you know that you will be put to sleep and upon your awakening your body will be permanently altered is a scary proposition for all humans. Thousands of people face this fear every day. In fact, every human being on the planet faces some form of fear from their first days to their last. As I have watched Robert build up the courage to walk on his own, I can see the fear in his eyes change to excitement as he finds a well of faith in his parents' encouragement and open arms. My understanding of my grandfather's last days is that even he was searching for reassurance that there is a heaven and that he had earned the right to be there.

These are two real instances on opposite ends of the life spectrum where I have been a witness to the fears mankind faces on a daily basis. Faith or a lack of faith is a common denominator amongst all of us, as we go through our daily lives and our spiritual journey. Lacking faith has been my biggest struggle over my 33 years and during my surgery and recovery, I was supplied with an abundance of faith through our congregation.

Becoming conscience as I was being wheeled through Mary Washington hospital, the first face I remember seeing is Erin's; and I expressed how happy I was to see her. It was an immediate injection into my soul that everything was going to be okay. The days to follow would include my family surrounding me at home and providing me everything I would need to succeed in my recovery. The church family poured out generosity through home baked meals, which were all delicious and were a huge help to our family. (We foolishly told the congregation to stop sending the meals, what were we thinking!?) Our pastor visited on the first Sunday of my recovery and brought Erin and I communion as well as a devotional, which is the inspiration for this narrative.

These acts by humans are the proof of faith that makes us believe. We are used through God's will to spread love and help those in need. This love fuels the faith in our Christian beliefs. Matthew 14:22-33 relates the human struggles of 2 millenniums ago in the presence of Jesus to the world we live in today. The disciples are scared as the waves and wind rock their boat, they become even more scared when they believe a ghost is approaching them in the open water. They then witness the impossible as Jesus walks on water, and through faith the scripture says, "So Peter went over the side of the boat and walked on the water toward Jesus." Not only did the son of God do the scientifically impossible by walking on water, but so did a human that was empowered by faith!

This excerpt then comes full circle; "he was terrified and began to sink." Peter allows the fear of the high waves and wind to overpower his faith and Jesus lends him a hand to save him from sinking. This short but powerful story can be seen in the lives of each of us. We all allow the fears in this world to drive us instead of running on the fuel of faith, it is human nature! During my recovery, I was able to reflect on these insights and hope that I can strive to bolster my faith to be the engine that drives my life and actions. I genuinely appreciate the injections of faith that each of you supply to others every day.

by: Bobby Miller

Birthdays and Special Occasions

Oct. 2 Tom S.
Oct. 8 Bill G.
Oct. 22 Paul H.
Oct. 24 Libby K.
Oct. 24 Scott P.
Oct. 26 Randy H.
Oct. 27 Jason P.
Oct. 31 Norma H.
Nov. 4 Bobby T.
Nov. 6 Steven H.
Nov. 13 Mack B.
Nov. 17 James L.
Nov. 19 Erin & Bobby Miller (anniv.)

Nov. 20 Ken P.
Nov. 24 Harry R.
Nov. 24 Hannah & Nick Baer (anniv.)
Nov. 25 Tarah H.
Nov. 25 Mary T.
Nov. 26 Nick B.
Dec. 5 Jesse R.
Dec. 11 Sharon B.
Dec. 15 Larry P.
Dec. 19 Ethel H.
Dec. 19 Sharon S.
Dec. 19 Sandra & Larry Payne (anniv.)
Dec. 20 Lorraine & R.O. Updike

Calendar of Events

Oct. 9 OUMW meet on line
Oct. 19 Administrative Council meets following worship
Oct. 26 St. John's Bells of Praise --a great treat during worship; potluck to follow
Nov. 13 OUMW meet on line

Nov. 27 **HAPPY THANKSGIVING!**



Dec. 6 Christmas in Orlean
Dec. 11 OUMW meet on line; annual Pizza Party and White Elephant at Juanita's
Dec. 24 Christmas Eve

Dec. 25 **MERRY CHRISTMAS!**



Tip of the Halo to:

~~everyone who contributed to the Food Pantry and PDF
~~everyone who donated Box Tops, Tyson +, and Campbell's Labels for Education
~~everyone who helped with the reception following Charge Conference
~~Lorraine for the altar flowers
~~everyone who helped FISH provide backpacks and school supplies to local needy students
~~everyone who contributed to the 5th Sunday Potluck
~~everyone who provided meals for Bobby's family after his surgery

Food Pantry and PDF

The Food Pantry serves two families each month; one of them has also begun to worship with us and we are grateful to be able to meet his spiritual needs as well as his physical ones.

During the 3rd quarter, the PDF provided help with one family with their mortgage as well as helping a single mom with pressing medical needs with her utilities.

The Food Pantry is well funded right now, but funds are low for the PDF.

Our church family is very giving and generous, so that we are able to extend God's grace to those in need.

--Norma

For the 3rd quarter, the escrip program donated \$30.49 to the Food Pantry fund.