



The Vine & the Branches

May 2015

Faith

I pray for stronger faith, dear Lord
Without it I am lost
I need it to survive life's storms
When I am tempest-tossed
I need more faith to overcome
My nameless dread and fears
I need more faith to live in joy
When I am drenched in tears
Give me the faith to just believe
When I am plagued with doubt
Please fill me with Your holy faith
Within my heart, without
There's no such thing as too much faith
I never have enough
Give me a faith that will not fail
When life gets really tough

Bob Gilmore
4-24-15

Bob wrote this poem last week, and it really speaks about always praying and asking God to keep us faithful! James 1:3-4 says, "For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a change to grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing." Stronger faith does not happen in an instant, it happens little by little, every day.

My hope is that we can all support each other in strengthening faith, for as long as we are still on this earth!

Karen Maas, Vine and Branches editor



PRAYING TOGETHER

Every Sabbath morning, 8:45am, join us in the Prayer Room before Sabbath School and church. It provides us with a time to come together in praise and thanksgiving, and present the needs of members in prayer each week. The Prayer Room is the classroom across from the Mothers' Room, in the back of the church foyer. — Donna Schacher

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From the Pastor's Keyboard

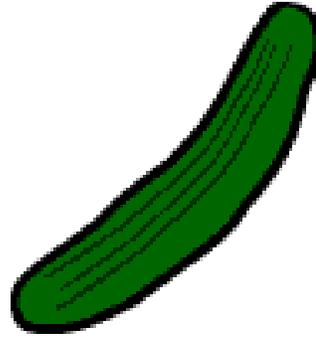
The Pastor's Keyboard

Dear Church Family,

A bird flew into our yard and began the hunt for worms. It was not long before he found one, but it was deep in the earth and got away quickly. The bird continued the hunt and within a few seconds he found another that was about half exposed. The worm had little leverage to fight from and on the third pull the bird had breakfast. Had that worm been in the position that the other worm was in he might have had a chance. But when you are left vulnerable, you are subject becoming breakfast.

We do not always recognize our condition or our incredible need for being protected. Laziness, ignorance, independence, self reliance are all ways that leave us open to the attacks of the Devil. We desperately need more than just a casual connection with God. It is so important for us to hear God speaking to us and here is why; David wrote this in Psalms 28:1: "Of David. To you, LORD, I call; you are my Rock, do not turn a deaf ear to me. For if you remain silent, I will be like those who go down to the pit." David had it very clear in his mind and heart that the only hope he had was God listening and speaking to him. We usually say we need God to hear us, but David was concerned about God speaking. So this begs the question about God speaking. Does God not speak? The answer is yes. When peoples' hearts are cold, indifferent to God, disobedient, rebellious, these are the times when God will not listen or speak to our prayers. But regardless of what you have done, if your heart is seeking God then he will listen to you. Here is the point. David saw that he did not want to go into a pit. He saw clearly the answer to the problem, God speaking to him. Are we concerned with God speaking to us? We often want God to hear us, but I would like to suggest that it is more important for us to have God speaking to us. Ask God to speak to you today and everyday and see what He says. Have a great month!

Love and prayers,
Pastor Ballard



Spicy cucumber side dish

Oi-muchim 오이무침

This is a cucumber dish that I enjoyed a year ago in Korea. Make the paste separately, then cut the cucumbers (chilled) and mix right when you are ready to serve. :)

Ingredients (serves 4):

- 1 English cucumber, washed
- 1/4 cup thinly sliced onion
- 1 green onion, chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 2 tablespoons soy sauce
- 2 teaspoons Korean pepper flakes
- 2 teaspoons sesame oil
- 2 teaspoons sesame seeds
- 1 teaspoon sugar (optional)

Directions:

1. Cut the cucumber in half lengthwise, then cut diagonally into thin slices.
2. Put the cucumber into a large bowl. Add the onion and green onion and garlic.
3. In a small bowl, mix the soy sauce, pepper flakes, sesame oil and sesame seeds (and a pinch of sugar if you need to offset the pepper spiciness).
4. Mix it well, then mix with cucumber mixture, and serve.

From <http://www.maangchi.com/recipe/oi-muchim>



May Birthdays

02 Chet Schmechel
02 Season Young
03 Marcel Ventura
03 Tracy Weakly
05 Charles Cook
05 Alfredo Renden
06 Lisa Maas
06 Kendra Weakly
08 Iantha Journey
10 Brittni McCart
12 Allen Alonso
12 Ethenn Payne
14 Lorijene Keightley
14 Keira Lacy
14 Julia Thatch
15 Cory Cinquini
16 Mayra Gurerra
20 May Buck
20 Karen Maas
22 John Zook
24 Ted Saufley
25 Glenda Edgerly
26 Lena Auvil
26 Jody Thatch
29 Melvin DeLeon
31 Ella Payne
31 Alvaro Reyes
31 Zachary Whitley



May Anniversaries

05 David & Shelly Cate
10 Charles & Connie Cook
15 Roberto & Jennifer Ortiz
19 Doug & Penny Ausmus
20 Scott & Mary Marjen

Seeking God's Character

3-day seminar, May 15-17

Presenter: Bobby Kalua

Friday, May 15, 6:30-8:30p.m.

*Spiritual Fitness/The Foundation of
Babylon*

Saturday, May 16, 9:30-10:30a.m.

Love, Forgiveness, Healing, and Wrath

Saturday, May 16, 11:00a.m.-12:30p.m.

Justice and Mercy

Saturday, May 16, 6:00-8:00p.m.

Marked by Who?

Sunday, May 17, 1:00-2:30p.m.

Open Discussion/Q&A

Watch for more announcements in the church
bulletin!!!

Patience...

...is like idling your motor when you really want
to rev your engine and strip your gears!

Contributed by Carol Sherman