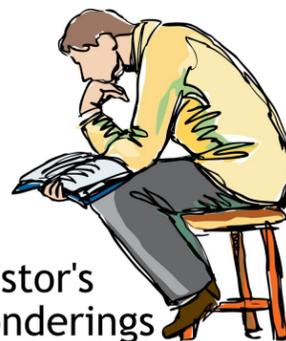


Ponder—v. verb

- 1. To think about (something) with thoroughness and care.
- 2. To reflect or consider with thoroughness and care



Pastor's Ponderings

If you are an astute listener, you will have heard me use the word “ponder” on numerous occasions since my arrival back in June of 2012.

Lest you think, however, that it is merely some speech affectation, let me assure you. It is not. Ponder is a word that speaks to my soul. It is used numerous times in scripture.

Psalm 4:4: “When you are disturbed, do not sin; ponder it on your beds, and be silent.”

Psalm 48:9: “We ponder your steadfast love, O God, in the midst of your temple.”

Psalm 64:9: “Then everyone will fear; they will tell what God has brought about, and ponder what he has done.”

Proverbs 15:28: “The mind of the righteous ponders how to answer, but the mouth of the wicked pours out evil.”

Isaiah 14:16: “Those who see you will stare at you, and ponder over you: “Is this the man who made the earth tremble, who shook kingdoms,…”

Luke 1:29: “But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.”

Luke 2:19: “But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.”

As you can read, it is used in numerous passages and all of them, in one way or another, seem to point to pondering our relationship to God. Maybe you can begin to see why I like the word so much and frequently slip it into conversations. If I tell you I need to ponder some idea or a question that you ask me, don’t assume that I am trying to dismiss the idea or question. I want to give it serious thought and not give you a snap kind of answer. Ponder—it is a small and powerful word.

I pray that all of us would be more eager to ponder the things of God that are revealed to us in Scripture and the experiences of God’s presence that we encounter in our day to day lives. Ponder. You need to try it sometime and don’t be surprised by what might be revealed to you when you do.

Prayer-Thankfulness

Each month, we have a different prayer theme. I have been pondering the theme for May- Thankfulness. I am being led to offer a sermon on thankfulness on that first Sunday in May when the prayer theme bookmark is handed out. As a result, I have been researching scriptures and quotes on the topic of thankfulness. Right now, they are all sort of muddled together in my mind. Let me share a few with you that seem to jump out at me.

Let me begin with this one from H.U. Westermayer who, when reminding us about our holiday of Thanksgiving said: "The Pilgrims made seven times more graves than huts. No Americans have been more impoverished than these who, nevertheless, set aside a day of thanksgiving."

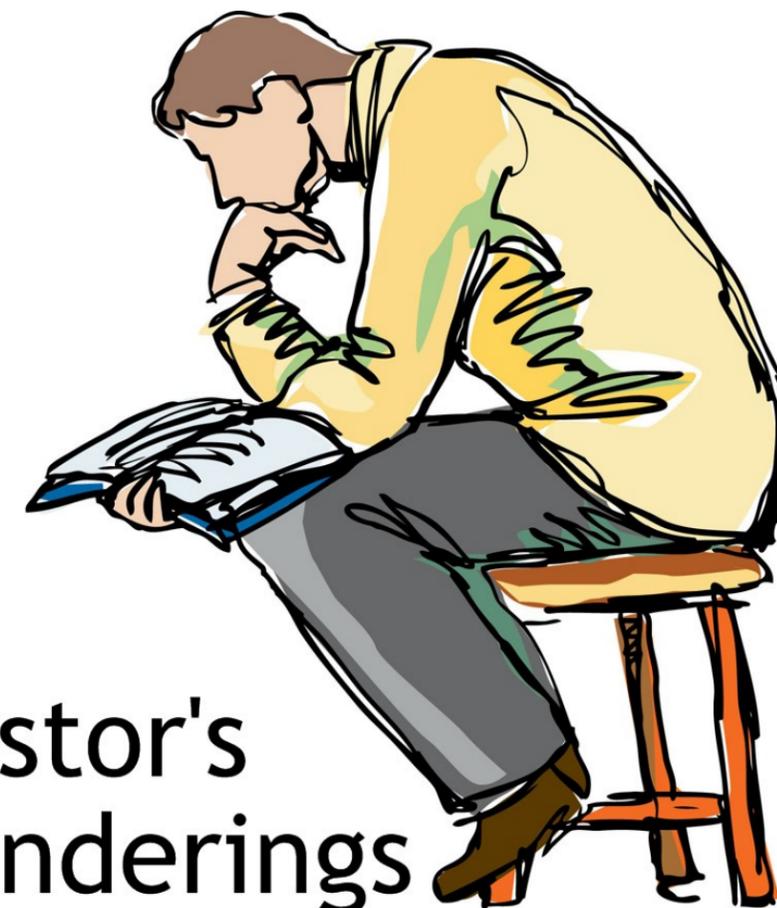
This suggests to me that thanksgiving is something that sometimes comes from a deliberate action on our part. That colonization of the new world was not an easy thing. Death was a constant reminder of the difficult task that this group of men and women undertook. Yet, somewhere in the midst of the pain and the dying, they found it within their hearts to give thanksgiving. It reminds me of the scripture found in Job 1:21: "...the Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away. Blessed be the name of the Lord."

I don't think that most of us have that same view of thankfulness. If we are polite we say, "Thank you." but when life confronts us with difficulties and trials it is not likely that the first words out of our mouth are words of thanks. As a pastor, I am often called upon to pray with families that have just lost loved ones. I typically begin with the words, "Most gracious and holy God..." I sometimes wonder, "Do the people I am praying with right now see any grace in this moment of loss?"

I think that thankfulness is one of those virtues that we must sincerely strive to achieve. As I encourage you to develop thankfulness in your own life, I close with this quote from Arthur John (A.J.) Gossip who said, "Thanksgiving is the language of heaven, and we had better start to learn it if we are not to be mere dumb aliens there."

So look for ways to practice thankfulness--even when you feel least like doing it.

The Trinity Companion Sunday April 26, 2015



Pastor's Ponderings

Trinity United Methodist Church

203 E 1st St, South—POB 217
Big Stone Gap, VA 24219

Worship begins at 11:00 am
Pastor—Rev. Terry Goodman

Office: (276) 523-0789
Text Only : (760) 621-8264

Email: trinityumcpastor@gmail.com
www.trinityumc-bsg.net

You can sponsor a bulletin. For \$15, we can put color on one side and for \$25 we can put color on both sides. Contact the office to see if the Sunday you want is available.

This Bulletin is
sponsored
by...



Let me tell you how glad we are to have you at our worship service today. We hope that you will encounter the presence of the risen Christ. Please feel free to join in any of the activities or events that you see mentioned. Please come back and worship with us again!

Greeters: *Patty Robbins & David Goodman*

Prelude

Announcements, Welcome, and Introduction : Diane Botts

Call to Worship: “Surely the Presence of the Lord is in This Place”

*** Opening Hymn:** “Stand By Me” No. 512

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

(You will be given an opportunity to share joys and prayer concerns. Please raise your hand and wait until an usher comes to you with a microphone.)

The Lord’s Prayer as found at No. 895

Children’s Message -Diane Botts

The Presentation of God’s Tithes and Our Offerings

Ushers: Ruben Allman, Phil Robbins, Mike Allen and Bill Hendrick

*** The Doxology** No. 95

Musical Offering: Special Music: Chris Rose and Angel Medford

Thanks to Chris Rose and Angel Medford for Sharing their music with us today

The Presentation of God’s Word

Scripture: Psalms 4 Bill Cole

Lector: The Word of the Lord for the people of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon : “The Pastor’s Ponderings”

*** Closing Hymn:** “The Gift of Love” No. 408

*** Pastoral Benediction :** “Old Irish Blessing”

Postlude:

*** Please stand, as you are able**

Musical lyrics reprinted using CCLI # 1083130



The Trinity Tribune

A Publication of Trinity United Methodist Church
Volume 4 No. 17 Sunday April 26, 2015

selling, please contact Christy Smith at 703-629-6040 (cell phone) or at cmsmithfor17@yahoo.com.

Items will need to be ready for pick up or dropped off at the church by 4:00 pm on Friday, May 1. All items will need to include a list of ingredients and the name of the item so that we can make labels. This is a requirement of the VA Department of Health and also for those with food allergies/sensitivities. Thank you for your continued support of the TUMC Youth.

Don’t Forget...

- Make your monetary gifts to the Annual Conference Mission Project for the Children of Holston Conference. Goal is at least \$10 per member and 10 hours of service and/or ministry with children in our church and community. Mark checks and envelopes: Kid’s Mission Offering
- Bring in items for the Annual Conference Mission Kits and money to send the kits. If you are making a monetary gift, then please label it: Mission Kits.
- Prayer Team meets on Wednesday nights at 6:00 pm in the Sanctuary. We pray for lots of people and lots of different situations in our church or community. We would really like for you to join us in this ministry.
- We are still trying to recoup the funds used to pay for the heat pump from back in January. We are just over 3/4’s of the way toward that goal. We also need second mile gifts to the Forward Trinity Equipment fund to recoup the funds used to pay for the recent computer purchase for the church office. Funds to either of these projects would be greatly appreciated.

UYMF Meeting

The UYMF will be meeting today at 5:00 pm with at meal at 5:30.

Shepherd Team

The Shepherd Team will meet on Monday April 27th at 10:00 am.

Church Yard Sale

The Kelly Sunday School will be holding their Yard Sale on May 4th-8th from 8:00 am-2:00 pm. Please donate items or come by and purchase something. I’m sure you will find something you really need.

NOW Team

The NOW Team will be meeting on Monday May 4th at 6:30 pm. Everyone is invited to attend.

Fellowship Supper

The May Fellowship Supper will be held on Wednesday May 13th at 6:00 pm due to the fact the Church Yard Sale is being held the first week of May. Please bring a covered dish.

UYMF Needs Baked Goods Donated for Farmer’s Market

The TUMC Youth will be selling baked goods at the Big Stone Gap Farmer’s Market on the first Saturday of every month during the season. The first event is on Saturday, May 2. If you are able to provide any baked goods (pies, bread, cookies, etc) for



Financial Snapshot

The Administrative Board thinks that it is important that we give you a weekly Financial Snapshot. Here are some figures to ponder:

Funds need for HVAC Units.....\$ 5,800
Current Balance Forward Trinity Maintenance:\$ 4,547
Money Given to General Fund
Budgeted Need to Date\$52,507
Actual Amount Given to Date \$48,895



May

Announcements

Skip Skinner

Ushers

Patty Robbins, Christy Smith, Pat Bowden, Patty Cooper

Greeters

Peggy Beverly, Nancy Mercer

Scripture

3-Phil Robbins
 10-Diane Botts
 17-Evan Clark
 24-Pat Bowden
 31-Skip Skinner

Van Drivers/Riders

3-Doug and Lucy Robinson
 10-Kenny and Martha Spurlock
 17-Doug and Lucy Robinson
 24-Pat Bowden and Diane Botts
 31-Kenny and Martha Spurlock

Children’s Message

3-Holy Communion
 10-Nancy Toney
 17-Bill Cole
 24-Christy Smith
 31-Angie Clendenon

Nursery Workers

3-Kenny Spurlock
 10-Paula Barton
 17-Cathy Galyean
 24-Pat Bowden
 31-Kenny Spurlock

Money Counters

3-Diane Botts and Christy Smith
 10-Kim Parsons and Pat Bowden
 17-Martha and Kenny Spurlock
 24-Chris Higgins and Paul Clark
 31-Bill Cole



“I HAVE NOT STOPPED GIVING THANKS FOR YOU, REMEMBERING YOU IN MY PRAYERS.”

EPHESIANS 1:16, NIV

For Those with Cancer:

James Horne; Liz Ashley; Robin (Rita Nash’s Daughter); Barbara Polly; Debbie Cooper; Wilma Nein; Phyllis Gilley; Melody (Mellie) Gilley

Facing or Recovering from Surgery or Hospital Stay

Beth Hagan; Becky Clark; Helen Cochran; Mary Warner; Robert King

Non-Specific Prayers for:

Brownie Polly; Dagni Spurlock; Virginia Sigmon; Geneva Allen; Jim Gates; Fred Vanbever; Jennie Shupe; Hope Meade; Matt Carroll; Jim Cooper; Melvin Carter; Kenny Spurlock’s mother; T. R Davidson; George Gose; Bill & Jean Hendrick; Becky Rogers; Mike Shaffer; Peggy Bates

- Pray for our Pastor and the Leaders of our church.
- Pray for the Leaders of the United Methodist Church.
- Pray for those in the Church in need.

If you know that someone on the prayer list has passed away, please contact the church office.