



Valley Voice

*Greater Buffalo Run Valley United Methodist Church
Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World
Pastor Calvin Miller
Office Phone: 814-355-2208
March 2018*

“Luck is the residue of design.”

---Branch Rickey

One afternoon when I was a kid, I couldn't find my mother in the house. I called for her several times, I looked in the upstairs, the downstairs, and the garage, but she was nowhere. Finally, I found her in the backyard, next to the house looking through a patch of weeds. When I inquired as to what she was doing, she said, "I'm looking for four-leafed clovers because they're rare and you'll have good luck if you find one."

I spent the next several days looking for one as well, and all I found was a sunburn and pain in my back! As I fondly remember this time with my mother, it reminds me of St. Patrick's Day and the concept of luck.

We are in the Lenten season- time set aside specifically to reflect on God's Role in, and Call on, our lives. We are not recipients of luck, we are recipients of God's Grace. Sometimes I hear people say that they were "lucky" when they were healed or when they received good news, however, this is not luck- it is answered prayer.

As the above quote indicates, things don't happen by chance, they happen by God, and our Calling is to understand that Grace and to help others realize the same Grace in their lives. Remember- the odds of finding a four-

The Lord has done great things for us,

and we rejoiced!

Psalm 126.3



leafed clover are 1 in 10,000; the odds of finding Grace is every time you look.

I encourage you to celebrate all that God has done, is doing, and will do in your life. Remember that God provides for you, God loves you, and will listen to, and respond to, your prayers. May God Bless you every day, and may you be a beacon of God's Light and Grace in our community, and our world!

Blessings and Wholeness,

Pastor Calvin



I was glad when they said...Let us go into the house of the Lord.
Psalm 122:1

**Greater Buffalo Run Valley
United Methodist Church**

**MAKING DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST FOR
THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE WORLD**

**Sunday Worship Schedule:
9 a.m.**

**Buffalo Run UMC Location
10:30 a.m.**

**Sunday School
Buffalo Run UMC Location**

**If you are in need of prayer or would like to
have a pastoral visit, please contact
Pastor Calvin Miller
Office Phone: 355-2208
Home Phone: 814-810-2106
Email: cmiller@susumc.org**

Remember the Three Bones

An Irish father was seeing his son off on a steamship where the lad was going to a new land with the intention of seeking his fortune in a new way of life.

"Now, Michael, my boy," said the father as they parted, "remember the three bones, and ye'll always get along all right."

A stranger standing nearby overheard the remark, and when the ship was underway, he asked the old gentleman what the three bones he referred to in his parting advice to his son.

"Sure, now," responded the old Irishman, "and wouldn't it be the wishbone and the jawbone and the backbone? It's the **wishbone** that keeps you going after things, and it's the **jawbone** that helps you find out how to go after them if you are not too proud to ask a question when there's something you don't know, and it's the **backbone** that keeps you at it until you get there."

---Source Unknown

Forgiveness

"Without forgiveness, there is resentment—or guilt. Instead of human fellowship, there are separate prisons. We have a choice: We can stay where we are—or we can give or ask forgiveness

Forgiveness is total or is it nothing. It is a risk and risk is seldom easy. Overcoming the fear of being hurt again is the price of love.

We are paralyzed until we accept—really accept—the fact that God forgives us. Once we do, we are freed to love, forgive and accept ourselves. Then healing begins.

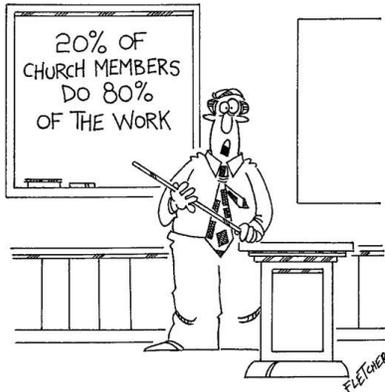
But He has also forgiven those who have injured us. We know we have accepted God's forgiving love only when we can forgive others. The release of the full power of His forgiveness is up to us."

---Christopher Notes

In a book called *When I Relax I Feel Guilty*, a foolish man says, "I would like to buy three dollars worth of God, please, not enough to explode my soul or disturb my sleep, but just enough to equal a cup of warm milk or a snooze in the sunshine. I want comfort not challenge; I want ecstasy, not transformation, not a new birth. I want a pound of the eternal in a paper sack. Please, I would like to buy just three dollars' worth of God."

A good question to consider: Just how much of God do you want to buy?

---T. Hansel (adapted)



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"So the question is: 'How to get that 20% to press on to greater achievement?'"

Someone Else

The church was grief-stricken last week to learn that one of the most valuable parish members, Someone Else, had passed away. This death created a vacancy that would be difficult to fill. Someone Else has been with the church for many years. During all these years, she did far more than a normal person's share of work. Whenever leadership was mentioned, this wonderful person was looked to for inspiration as well as results.

Whenever there was a job to do—a committee to chair, or a meeting to attend—one name was on everyone's list: "Let Someone Else do it."

Someone Else was also among the largest givers of the church. Whenever there was a financial need, everyone just assumed that Someone Else would make up the difference.

This beloved church member was a wonderful person, sometimes appearing super-human; but a person can only do so much. Everybody expected too much of Someone Else; depended on her too much.

Now Someone Else is gone. Who will pitch in to do the things that Someone Else had done? If you are asked to serve on a committee, to assist a service organization, to help out, to donate to the church fund, it is hoped you won't reply: "Let Someone Else do it." Just who will pick up where Someone Else had left off?

---Pulphithelps.com

The Council of Churches Of Bellefonte and Vicinity

Founded in the 1940s the organization has been ongoing with the purpose of manifesting the essential oneness of the Christian churches in Jesus Christ as the Divine Lord and Savior and celebrating the Christian faith by offering community worship, assisting persons in need, and working together in cooperative ministries.

There are three council meeting per year which are dinner meeting held at various churches. Participating church member should send a representative or two to vote and keep a good watch on the happenings and then report back to their respective churches.

Member churches donate what they can to the council who then pays vouchers to needy people as designated by the Bellefonte Faith Centre. During 2017, 76 adults and 46 children were helped in the amount of 7,325.83 for rent and \$1,708.48 for utilities. In addition weekly Lenten breakfasts were held with seven different pastors delivering messages and 300 persons attending.

Greater Buffalo Run Valley UMC has been a member for several years serving as officers and donating money to help serve the needy. Pastor Calvin Miller has been active and has delivered spiritual messages. He will be the speaker at the March 7 Lenten breakfast. The breakfasts are held Wednesdays at 7:30 a.m. at Trinity UMC, Bellefonte. Please make a special effort to attend.

Also, there is a dire need for a few folks to become representatives for the Greater Buffalo Run Valley UMC. It is a small commitment: three (3) supper meeting per year. Please contact Pastor Calvin if you are willing to serve.

---Submitted by Judy Densvich

"Trust the **past** to God's mercy, the **present** to His love, and the **future** to His providence."

---St. Augustine

Law of the Garbage Truck

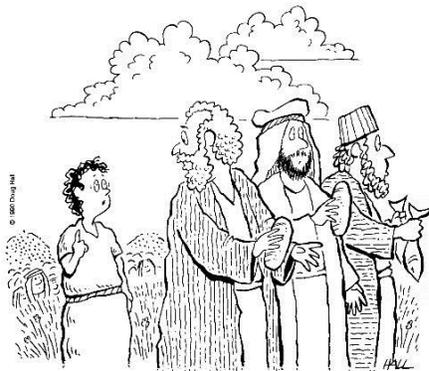
A man hopped in a taxi, and took off for the airport. They were driving in the right lane when suddenly, a black car jumped out of a parking space right in front of the taxi. The taxi driver slammed on the brakes, the car skidded, tires squealed, and at the very last moment the car stopped just one inch from the other car's back-end....The driver of the other car...whipped his head around and he started yelling words...

The taxi driver just smiled and waved at the guy. And, he was friendly. So, the passenger asked, "Why did you just do that!? This guy could have killed us!" And this is when the taxi driver told me what I now call, "The Law of the Garbage Truck™."

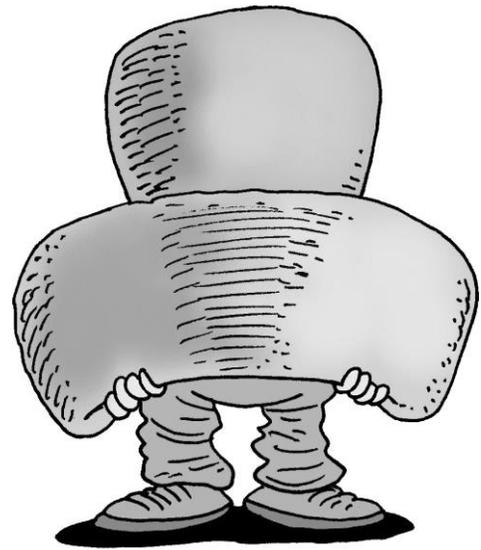
He explained: "Many people are like garbage trucks. They run around full of garbage, full of frustration, full of anger, and full of disappointment. As their garbage piles up, they look for a place to dump it. And if you let them, they'll dump it on you. So when someone wants to dump on you, don't take it personally. Just smile, wave, wish them well, and move on...."

So I started thinking, how often do I let garbage trucks run right over me? And how often do I take their garbage and spread it to other people at work, at home, or on the street? The bottom line is, "Don't let garbage trucks ruin your day."

---David J. Pollay, Pulphelp



"About my loaves and fishes . . . could I get a receipt for tax purposes?"



**Some things God gives us
have to be grown into**

The Worth of Our Lives

A well-known speaker started his seminar by holding up a \$20 bill. In the room of 200 people, he asked, "Who would like this \$20 bill?" Hands shot up. He said, "I'm going to give this \$20 to one of you but first, let me do this."

He proceeded to crumple the \$20, and asked, "Who still wants it?" Still the hands were up in the air. "Well, he said, "what if I do this?" And he dropped it to the ground and started to grind it under his shoe. He picked it up, now crumpled and stomped on. "Now, who wants it still?" And the hands went into the air.

"My friends, we have all learned a very valuable lesson. No matter what I did to the money, you still wanted it because it did not decrease in value. It was still worth \$20. Many times in our lives, we are knocked down, crumpled, and ground into the dirt by the decisions we make and the circumstances that come our way. We feel as though we are worthless. But no matter what has happened or what will happen, you will never lose your value. Dirty or clean, crumpled or finely creased, you remain priceless to those who do love you. The worth of our lives comes not in what we do or who we know, but by who we are. You are special – don't ever forget it."

---Source Unknown

