

PROVIDENCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BUSTLETON



Providence Presbyterian Bustling's

Sunday, October 23, 2022 Issue No. 128

October 23, 2022
Twentieth Sunday In Pentecost

PHILIPPIANS 4:11 - I AM NOT SAYING THIS BECAUSE I
AM IN NEED. FOR I HAVE LEARNED TO BE CONTENT
WHATEVER THE CIRCUMSTANCES.



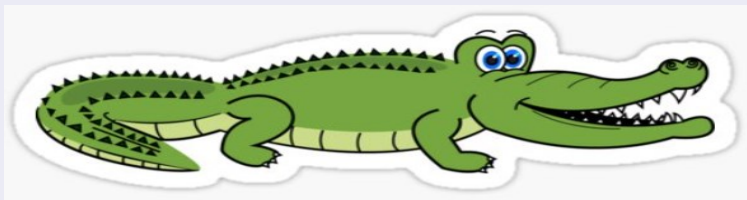
Happy With What I Have

Marianne Bachleder — San Francisco, California — December 18, 2013



I am a docent at the California Academy of Sciences. A few weeks ago I was visiting with a lovely Indian family about the Academy's Swamp exhibit. Their young son was fascinated by the albino

alligator and asked many questions about him. As the family was leaving, I asked the boy if he would like a sticker to put on his shirt. He quickly chose an alligator sticker. The boy's younger brother spent time going through all the sticker choices before choosing a butterfly. The boy who had chosen first then said softly to his father, "I didn't see the frog sticker. I would have chosen the frog." His father immediately urged the boy to ask me for a second sticker. The boy said, "No, I'm happy with what I have."



I was stunned. Such wisdom, grace, and gratitude, all from an eight-year-old boy. Too often, we forget to be happy with what we have and in our forgetfulness we spread the infection of discontent. It's a mistake easily made in a world where everyone is expected to pursue every want—the newest gadget, the latest update.

I recently purchased my first laptop computer. In discussions with the salesperson, he casually said, "Well, within two years, you'll probably want a new one anyway." Why would I want a new one if my old one was working? Why wouldn't I be "happy with what I have"? Perhaps, "want" is the key word. I won't necessarily need a new laptop in two years but I "will probably want one."

All consumerism, all advertising is based on the assumption that we are not happy with what we have. Or, if we are happy, that we can be made unhappy by dangling something shiny or edible in front of us.

A poet friend of mine says, "In days past, the word 'consumption' was used to describe tuberculosis, a wasting away of the body; today, consumption is a wasting away of the spirit." I need to protect myself against this spirit sickness, this constant lack of thankfulness. I may want shiny things, but I don't need them. What I do desperately need is the peace of mind found in moments of contentment and gratitude. I need to identify each of my wildcat urges to purchase or possess as either "want" or "need." My needs are basic, predictable, manageable. My wants are chaotic changelings, disturbers of the peace that can never be satisfied.

I will tend
my needs,
I will
whittle my
wants,
and I will
say often,
"I'm
happy
with what I
have."



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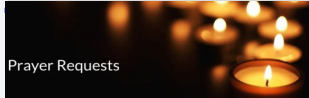
Providence Presbyterian Church

I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord



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Prayer Requests will be added each week by your requests, and will run for two weeks unless a request to continue is received.



God's healing presence:

For Fritz & Jean Wainwright, Jean Miller, and Fran Kraft
For Dave Hammell & Joe Celkupa
For Maritza Chambers' sister Elba and her brother Angel
For Aiden Witte, Brittany Zier & Marleigh
For Polly Grobelny & her daughter Ava
For Ginny Heal, preparing for surgery at the end of the month
For Jack Harkins healing after a complicated surgical procedure
For Liz Duffy dealing with Alzheimer's and patience for her family
For Wendy's nephew Shawn dealing with cancer.
For Ed who recently suffered a stroke.
For Zoe Westmeyer (7 months old) who has infection in both ears for about 2 months and isn't responding to antibiotics and her mother Katie who is recovering from covid and has a residual cough.
Zoe is the granddaughter of Carol Shore's close friend.

For God's Helping Hand:

For the citizens of Puerto Rico, Cuba, Florida, & South Carolina after Hurricane Ian
For George Gates to overcome hard times and for a restoration of faith

God's comfort:

For the **Snively and Horner families** mourning the loss of loved ones
For **Barbara** caring for Ed
For the people of **Ukraine**

For God's Guidance and Assistance:

In Thanks and Praise to God:

For the joy of reuniting with family
For Carol spending time with her brother Harold
For the continued success of Ethan & Aaron Olsen
For God's providence for Pastor Inna & our Session



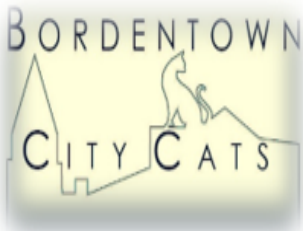


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Carol Shore happily reports that they collected 16 Sleepers and various other items in our Sleepers in September Drive. They were delivered and many were used in filling their October layette bags. Thank You to everyone for supporting such an important group. The Drive continues through the end of October



Beginning October 9th, we will be placing a box in the back of the church to collect donations for the Bordentown City Cats.

Items most critically needed:

- Cat food for adults – WET OR DRY
- Cat food for kittens – WET OR DRY
- Clorox Wipes (or similar for cleaning crates)
- Litter
- Pee Pads
- Paper Towels
- Monetary donations always welcome.

Thank you for your help in this endeavor.

Also, weather permitting, the Bordentown City Cats will have a table at the Cranberry Fest



The Missions Committee Cereal Drive is ongoing through October. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to its success!



Inna Moment

This Sunday's sermon is titled "The Virtue of Humility," and it draws from Deuteronomy 30:9-14 and Luke 18:9-14.

To add some artistic insights to Luke's parable about the distinction between self-righteous religiosity and heartfelt awareness of the need for forgiveness, in today's issue we included a watercolor "The Pharisee and The Publican" by the 19th century English artist John Everett Millais.

The poetic restatement of Psalm 65 by Leslie Brandt (rooted in the emotions and faith of the ancient text) explores our contemporary relationship to God. It calls us to take a closer look at humility as a virtue that is so vital to our relationship with God; humility that enables us to be justified by the power of God's righteousness.

You well-deserve the praises of your children, O God, and they should fulfill their pledges to you.

Everyone must eventually face up to you, and it must be with all our sins and shortcomings.

But those who come in sorrow and repentance shall find you merciful and gracious. You, Lord, shall forgive their sins and fill their hearts with your love and joy.

O God, you reach out to save us. You are the single, eternal hope of all humankind.

You made your power known to us in the majestic grandeur of the mountains, in the thunderous roar of ocean waves.

Your abundance is poured out upon us in the grain-laden fields, in the flocks and herds in the meadows, in the gentle rain that caresses the green hills.

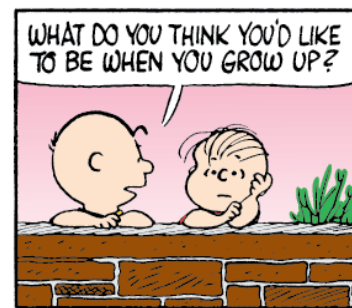
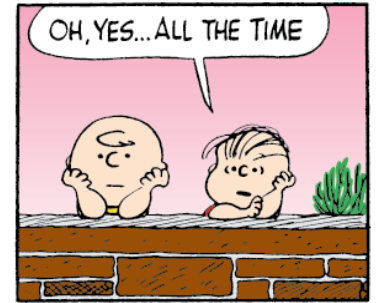
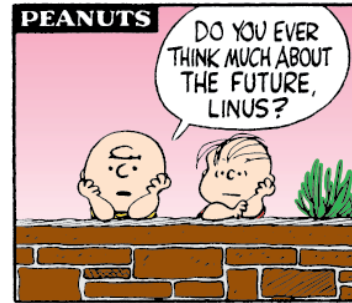
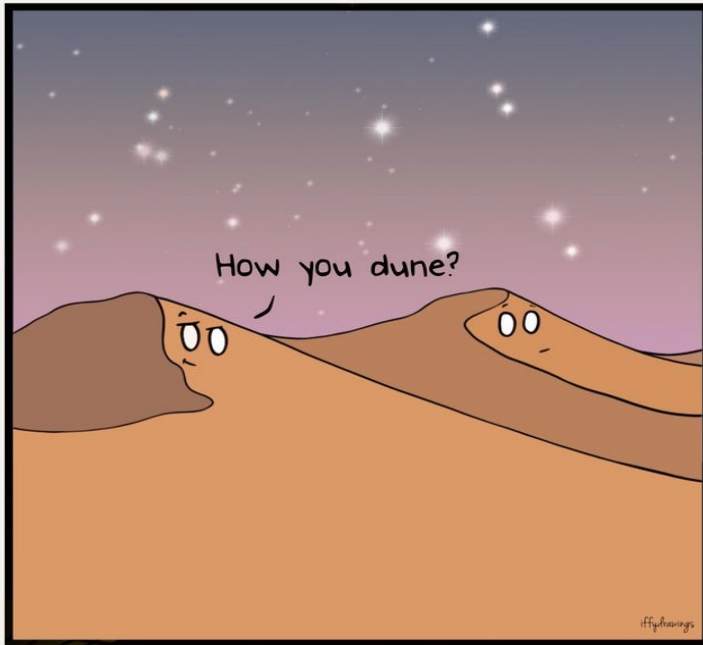
Your love for us is manifested in your great deliverance on our behalf. You well-deserve the praises of your children, O God.



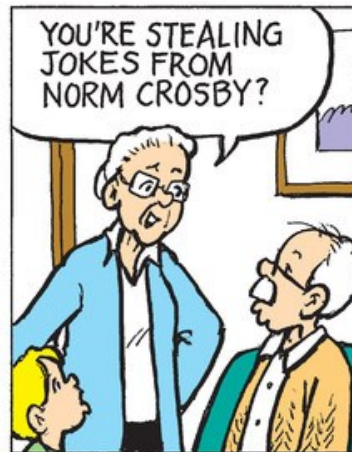
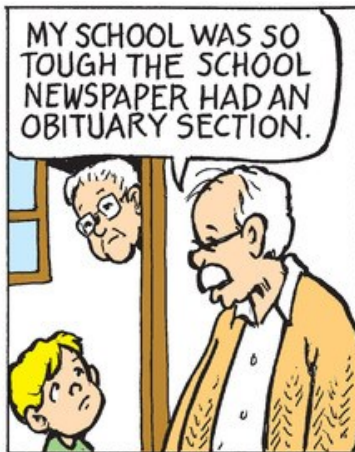


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