



The Good News

ENLIGHTENED (AND UNENLIGHTENED) SELF-INTEREST

A new book titled *The Predictioneer's Game* tells us how we can see and even influence the future by determining what's best for the people involved in any given activity. According to the author, Bruce Bueno de Mesquita, we make decisions based on self-interest—and little else. Allowing that Mother Teresa did good works for poor people, he observes that she had considerable media coverage of all those noble deeds. Then he asks the question: "Could it be that Mother Teresa's ambition for herself was tied to her faith in an eternal reward?"

Shifting from the religious to the political arena, Bruno de Mesquita points to the example of King Leopold II of Belgium. In his reign in the latter third of the 19th century, he was a benevolent monarch at home and an oppressive ogre in the Congo. Why the contradictory behaviors? In Belgium as a constitutional monarch, he had to be concerned to keep his subjects content. In Africa, where the Congo was a colony of Belgium and the people were powerless, he had no constraints. In both areas, Leopold acted according to his self-interest.

It just may be that I move in different circles than Bruno de Mesquita. My education in the theology of Augustine and Calvin prevents me from being overly optimistic in my assessment of human nature. Like all veteran pastors, I'm far from naïve when it comes to the behavior of men and women. At the same time, my years of service in the church have allowed me to see genuine acts of service and sacrifice that can only be called selfless. Time and time again, in this parish and in every church I have served, I've witnessed people of faith reaching out with love and kindness, with no expectation of reward or praise, to help others in need.

As the first decade of the new millennium gives way to the second, it's an appropriate time to be reminded of Jesus' instruction to his disciples: "Whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many." May these words guide us in the year ahead and all the years that God gives us.

With grace & peace,

Deane

PYC EVENTS

- January 3 Sr. High – SAVED – watching the movie and discussing salvation
- January 10 Jr. High – Lunch and Ice Skating
- January 10 Dinner Downtown
- January 17 Discussion on Prejudice and Equality in honor of MLK weekend
- January 24 Parents Night
- January 31 Music Discussion
- February 7 Souper Bowl of Caring
- March 5-7 Mystery Mission Trip



UPCOMING EVENTS

First a few reminders...

January 3 First Sunday Fellowship

BETHELWOODS CHURCH RETREAT

February 5-7, 2010



Registration Forms are available in the office and narthex. To sign-up please speak to Dorothy Blackwelder.

Looking Ahead...

- Parents' **Communion Training** on February 21
- 1st-2nd Grade **Communion Workshop** on February 28
- Oyster Roast** on February 27
- Red Cross **Blood Drive** on March 7, 2010
- Vacation Bible School** on June 7-11, 2010

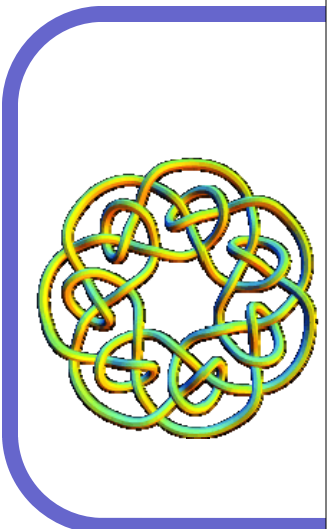


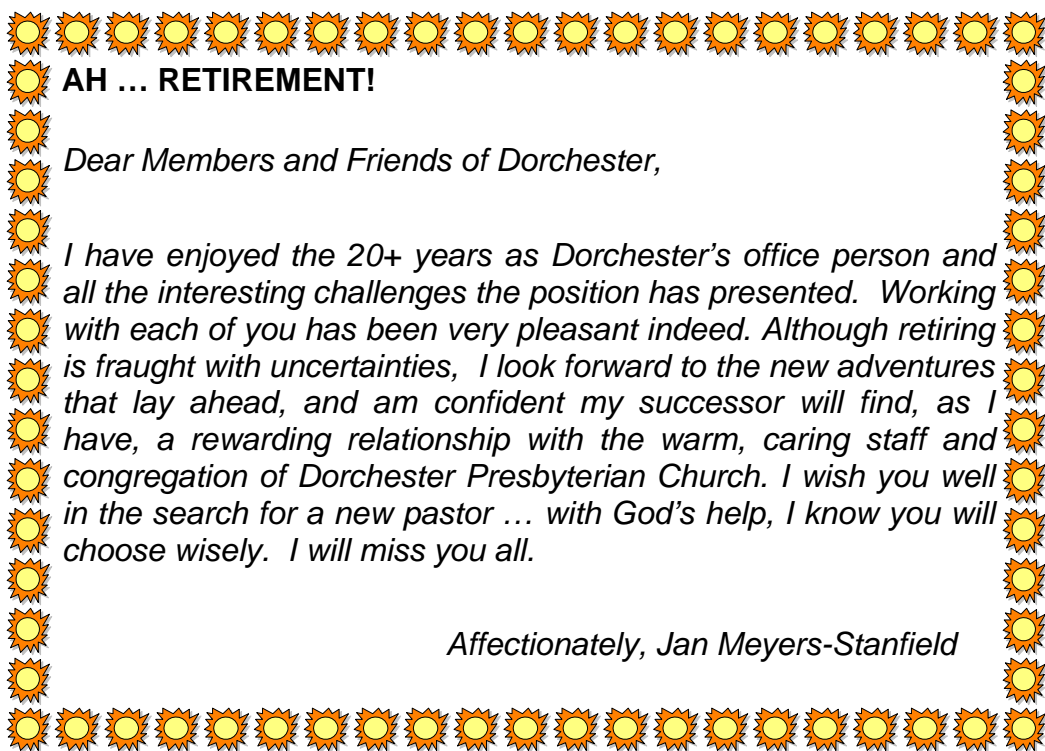
NEEDED:

White, button-down-the-front shirts, all sizes from girls petite/small to women/XXL to boys size small to men XXL. There are many middle school students in the Charleston County School District whose families are struggling financially and need help getting the right clothing for dress code compliance. These children also need sweaters and vests, black or white, all sizes. Please look in your closets - everyone surely has a white shirt, white or black sweater, or vest they can contribute. Gently used black shoes (all sizes) would be appreciated, too. See Anne Peterson at church on Sunday. Thank you!

NEWS SPOT

Emily Taylor, daughter of Rick and Angie Krouse, has been chosen 2010-2011 Teach of the Year at Greer High School. Her principal shared these kind words, "Ms. Taylor has exemplified quality teaching at all levels of English instruction, has assumed a faculty leadership role in Writing Across the Curriculum, and models professionalism and commitment to her colleagues, students, parents, and community." *Congratulations to Emily and her proud parents.*





AH ... RETIREMENT!

Dear Members and Friends of Dorchester,

I have enjoyed the 20+ years as Dorchester's office person and all the interesting challenges the position has presented. Working with each of you has been very pleasant indeed. Although retiring is fraught with uncertainties, I look forward to the new adventures that lay ahead, and am confident my successor will find, as I have, a rewarding relationship with the warm, caring staff and congregation of Dorchester Presbyterian Church. I wish you well in the search for a new pastor ... with God's help, I know you will choose wisely. I will miss you all.

Affectionately, Jan Meyers-Stanfield

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Please note the following highlights for upcoming meeting:

January –

The Senior Fellowship and Presbyterian Women will have a luncheon on the second Wednesday for the residents at the Presbyterian Village.

We will be collecting paper products for Palmetto House at the regular meeting on the 4th Thursday.

From January through May we will meet on the fourth Thursday. We gather in the fellowship hall for crafts on the second and fourth Monday at 7 pm and the second Thursday morning at 10 am and after the meeting on the fourth Thursday.

Prayer shawls are being made on a regular basis and can be obtained by making contact with Sandy Nunn, Norma Jamrogowicz or by leaving a message at the church office.

HELP NEEDED AT THE PALMETTO HOUSE ... Summerville's Homeless Shelter

In order to establish a stronger relationship with the Palmetto House, the Service and Outreach Committee is asking for individuals of the congregation to volunteer for 2 hours once a month. The time on Saturday will be used to teach the residents of the Palmetto House some skill or activity in which the church member is proficient. This program began in November and continues each month. The volunteer will serve one month.

In November each resident made a stocking.

Suggested skills or activities could include, but is not limited to, the following:

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|-------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Sewing | Crocheting | Applying Makeup |
| Quilting | Cooking | Personal Defense |
| Weaving | Flower Arranging | Creative Writing |
| Carpentry | First Aid | Budget Building |
| Art in any medium | | Job Applications |

Your supplies and assistance will be provided by the Service and Outreach Committee. Please call Mary Lee (871-1585) or Robin Bowers (873-4548) for more details.

GOODSEARCH

Remember to use www.goodsearch.com when you are searching on the internet. A portion of advertising proceeds from the site will go toward youth activities when you select Dorchester Presbyterian Church as your charity of choice.



PRESBYTERIAN COFFEE PROJECT

DPC is now serving and selling Fair Trade Coffee. This project will help provide a fair wage and dignity to coffee farmers all over the world. You can purchase a 12oz bag in the church office for \$7 – there are a variety of flavors.



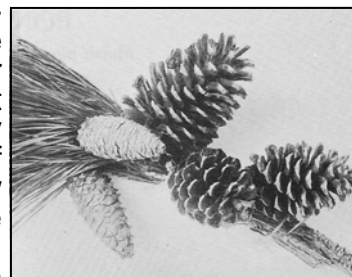
NATURE'S BOUNTY

Forester Doug, again ...

My thoughts turned to the "EVERGREEN" trees here in the low country. My "New Collegiate Dictionary", now 50-years-old, has this definition of "evergreen" remaining verdant, as coniferous trees and many tropical plants. The word 'evergreen' is often used loosely as a synonym of "conifer", but some conifers, as the larch (and bald cypress) are deciduous, and many evergreens, as the laurel (and southern magnolia) are not conifers. So, that definition doesn't fit comfortably, just loosely.

We are blessed with several trees that stay 'green with foliage' all year, truly evergreen.

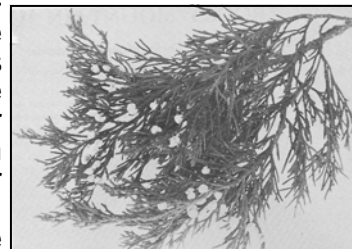
First let's look at the ubiquitous loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*). They are everywhere today. During the early years of the 20th century, the logging/sawmilling industry pretty well cut the old forests of pine trees 3-4 feet in diameter and over 100 feet tall. The left-over pines produced seed that fell to the ground and started a new forest. Loblolly produces big crops of seed every year, while Longleaf pine makes seed only every 3 to 5 years, so the new forest was mostly Loblolly and has continued so to the present. There are 3 clues to identifying Loblolly Pine: 1) Look up at the branches and you will see pine cones anytime of the year. 2) Pine cones are 4 to 6 inches long with sharp spines, so squeezing one will hurt your hand. 3) The needles are in clusters of three.



Next, let's look at SPRUCE PINE (*Pinus glabra*), first described by SC botanist Thomas Walter in 1788. This tree is not widely known, but it is plentiful here in the low country on our phosphate-mined soils. It endures living in shade of other trees are harvested or knocked down by winds, the Spruce Pines are able to benefit from full sun. Now the cones of Spruce Pine are small, under 2-inches, and egg-shaped. The needles are in clusters of two and twisted. Many of you probably have one in your yard!



Tree 3 is EASTERN REDCEDAR (*Juniperus virginiana*). This tree usually has a slender, columnar habit. In years past it was commonly seen along fences and in cemeteries, where the birds that ate the berries left the seeds. The bark is shreddy and was used for tinder to start fires. The wood is red and aromatic. It was used for cedar chests and closets to protect woolen clothes from moths. The wood is resistant to rot and was used for fence posts. The foliage has two types of needles. Young growth has sharp awl-like needles, while the mature growth has flat, scale-like leaves. Oh, only the female trees bear the berries.



Well, here are some thoughts on the evergreen trees on the low country.

'til next month Forester Doug

NATURE'S
BOUNTY

E-MAIL PRAYER CHAIN

There are 70 members currently on our Dorchester Presbyterian Church E-Mail Prayer Chain – we are praying for each other continuously. If you would like to be added to the prayer chain e-mail list, please sign up on the bulletin board or talk to Kathy Worthington. If you have a prayer request, send it to Kathy at worthington@sc.rr.com.

SHOE FUND

Why do we put money in a shoe during Sunday school? Our Sunday school offering, called the Shoe Fund, supports the Dorchester County DSS. The money collected originally was used to purchase new shoes for children in foster care, but it is now used to supply a variety of needs for these children, including shoes, clothes, and school fees. In 2008, we raised \$1,867 through this offering. Please continue to give generously in the shoe.

RECYCLING FOR A GOOD CAUSE

We know that it's good to recycle to help be good stewards of the earth, but we can also help other organizations by recycling some things. See below for things you can collect and bring to the church and who they will benefit:

Can Tabs - Ronald McDonald House of Charleston

Campbell Soup Labels & Box Tops for Education –Thornwell Home for Children

Printer and Toner Cartridges – Dorchester PYC

Aluminum Cans – Habitat for Humanity

Cell Phones – My Sister's House

You can bring the first four items to the church narthex; aluminum cans are collected in a bin in the parking lot by the boy scout trailers; and cell phones are collected in the church office.

FLOWERS and COMMUNION PREPARATION

We need your help in worship. If you are interested in providing flowers for our Sunday morning services or preparing our communion table, please sign-up on the sheets on the bulletin board...there are still many spaces to be filled.

February 2010 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

January 15

Thank you for your promptness!

Articles not received by this date will not be included.

Email articles to: DPCUSA@bellsouth.net

REMEMBER: If you have had a change in your email address, please let the office know as soon as possible so you won't miss out on the newsletter.

Reminders

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Thru December 27, 2009

Income Needed to date \$ 313,087.63

Income received to date: \$ 361,088.00

Variance: \$ -48,000.37

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:**

To ensure the deductibility of your church contributions, please do not file your 2009 income tax return until you have received a written acknowledgment of your contributions from the church. You may lose a deduction for some contributions if you file your tax return before receiving a written acknowledgment of your contributions from the church.

To be considered by IRS as a 2009 charitable tax deduction, all contributions must be received by the church by December 31, 2009, and if mailed, must be post-marked no later than December 31, 2009.

Karene Feltner, Bookkeeper

ELDER OF THE MONTH FOR January Harry Johnson

COMMUNION SERVERS

Harry Johnson	Connor Richardson
Kathy Worthington	Robin Bowers

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS

	<u>Infant</u>	<u>Toddler</u>
January 3	Anne Peterson	Ann Anderson
January 10	Angie Houston	Lisa Waring
January 17	Laura Nelson	Matthew Oswald
January 24	Barbara & Abby Alexander	Russ Blackwelder
January 31	Julie Richardson	Barbara Chirillo

NEWCOMERS HOSTS

January 3	Jimmy and Lisa Waring
January 10	Brandon and Kylie Paige
January 17	Bob and Sarah Wickersham
January 24	Bob and Joan Semle
January 31	Kirk and Pam Stewart

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

January 3	Brenda Sutton and Ryan Colucci
January 10	Joan Semle and Leigh Burnette
January 17	Matthew Oswald and Lauren Veline
January 24	Robin Bowers and Connor Richardson
January 31	Jessica Bowers and Drew Burnette