

West Valley Church of God
P. O. Box 343
San Fernando, CA 91341

Pastors & Elders

Pastor: Wayne and Patty Mitchell
West Valley Elders
Carlton & Judy Green
Cornell Smith

Quotes

"It is not your obligation to complete the task [of perfecting the world], but neither are you free to desist [from doing all you can]."

--- Pirkei Avos

"Most of our so-called 'broad-minded' individuals seem to dwindle in depth as they gain in breadth."

--- Rabbi Shraga Silverstein

Contributors: Jane Hickok, Susan Thompson, Lil Dratler



Women's Ministry

June 1, 2019 was the date of our recent Women's Ministry Luncheon. We had a visitor all the way from England!

Springtime colors prevailed to make the live florals and plate settings cheerful and fresh.

Fellowship, prayers for others, and fine foods made for a wonderful afternoon.

A special presentation by Sharon Mills outlining some of her early childhood and other experiences leading to her



artistic development provided added interest for the ladies, together with her original oil painting, "Bread and 7 Cherries" (shown below).



"Bread and 7 Cherries" (Detail)
Oil on Canvas © Sharon Mills 2019

Editor's Corner

• Submissions for inclusion in "The Vine" are welcome **at any time**. We need your input! Please email to the editor (See right column) - in **10 point type, Arial font**, for easier placement.

Send submissions to:
TheVineEditor@aol.com -
Subject Line: Title of Article. **Time sensitive** submissions due **5th** of month for following month's issue. **News and Inspirational articles welcome any time.**

NOTICE... Many paintings shown in this publication are for sale. Check your old copies. Contact Editor.

The Vine

"I am the Vine, you are the branches: He that abides in me, and I in him, the same brings forth much fruit: for without me you can do nothing."
John 15:5

July 2019

West Valley Church of God -- "Come worship with us..."

Submissions: TheVineEditor@aol.com

We meet at the Congregational Church of Northridge
9659 Balboa Boulevard, Northridge, CA 91325

Saturday Service 10:30 A.M. - www.westvalleywgc.org



If I Had My Life To Live Over...

By Erma Bombeck

I would have talked less and listened more. I would have invited friends over to dinner even if the carpet was stained, or the sofa faded.

I would have eaten the popcorn in the 'good' living room and worried much less about the dirt when someone wanted to light a fire in the fireplace.

I would have taken the time to listen to my grandfather ramble about his youth.

I would never have insisted the car windows be rolled up on a summer day because my hair had just been teased and sprayed.

I would have burned the pink candle sculptured like a rose before it melted in storage.

I would have sat on the lawn with my children and not worried about grass stains.

I would have cried and laughed less while watching television - and more while watching life.

I would have gone to bed when I was sick instead of pretending the earth would go into a holding pattern if I weren't there for the day.

I would never have bought anything just because it was practical, wouldn't show soil, or was guaranteed to last a lifetime.



Upcoming Events

• Bible Studies, Letters and other Events...see Weekly Bulletin and Bulletin Board.

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Illustration © Sharon Mills 2019

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If I Had My Life To Live Over (cont.)

Instead of wishing away nine months of pregnancy, I'd have cherished every moment and realized that the wonderment growing inside me was the only chance in life to assist God in a miracle.

When my kids kissed me impetuously, I would never have said, "Later. Now go get washed up for dinner."

There would have been more "I love you's." More "I'm sorry's" . . . but mostly, given another shot at life, I would seize every minute . . . look at it and really see it . . . live it . . . and never give it back.

Stop sweating the small stuff. Don't worry about who doesn't like you, who has more, or who's doing what. Let's think about what God has blessed us with.



And what we are doing each day to promote ourselves mentally, physically,

emotionally, as well as spiritually. Life is too short to let it pass you by.

We only have one shot at this and then it's gone.

I hope you all have a blessed day.

Sent in by Jane Hickok



CRACKED POTS

A water-bearer in India had two large pots which hung on the ends of a pole he carried across his neck. One pot had a crack and so always arrived half-full. The cracked pot was ashamed of his imperfection and apologized to the water-bearer for making his life harder. He felt that his flaws made the water-bearer's job more difficult.

The water-bearer responded that there were flowers growing ONLY on the side of the path where the cracked pot had been used. He had planted flower seeds on that side and as he walked back the flowers were watered – thus the flowers grew and were able to decorate the table.

We need to be grateful that God uses cracked pots! We are not going to be perfect in this life, but God will use us if we yield to Him.

From a devotional – Bible in one year 2019



Sent in by Lil Dratler



Found on a basement wall in Germany after WWII under the star of David -

**I believe in the sun even when it is not shining
I believe in love even when I do not feel it
I believe in God even when He is silent**

The Centrality of God's Name

It is scarcely possible to overemphasize the centrality of the name of God, that is, the fame of God, in motivating the mission of the church.



When Peter had his world turned upside down by the vision of unclean animals in Acts 10, and by the lesson from God that he should evangelize Gentiles as well as Jews, he came back to Jerusalem and told the apostles that it was all owing to God's zeal for his name. We know this because James summed up Peter's speech like this: "Brothers, listen to me. Simeon has related how God first visited the Gentiles, to take from them a people for his name" (Acts 15:13–14).

It's not surprising that Peter would say that God's purpose was to gather a people for his name; because the Lord Jesus

had stung Peter some years earlier with an unforgettable lesson.

You recall that, after a rich young man turned away from Jesus and refused to follow him, Peter said to Jesus, "See, we have left everything and followed you [unlike this rich fellow]. What then will we have?" (Matthew 19:27). Jesus responded with a mild rebuke, which in effect said that there is no ultimate sacrifice when you live for the name of the Son of Man. He said, "Everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold and will inherit eternal life" (Matthew 19:29).

The truth is plain: God is pursuing with omnipotent delight a worldwide purpose of gathering a people for his name from every tribe and language and nation (Revelation 5:9; 7:9). He has an inexhaustible enthusiasm for the fame of his name among the nations.

Therefore, when we bring our affections in line with his, and, for the sake of his name, renounce the quest for our own worldly fame and comforts, and join his global purpose, God's omnipotent commitment to his name flies like a banner before us, and we cannot lose, even if we must walk through many tribulations (Acts 14:22; Romans 8:35–39).

John Piper -DesiringGod.org

Sent in by John Brown